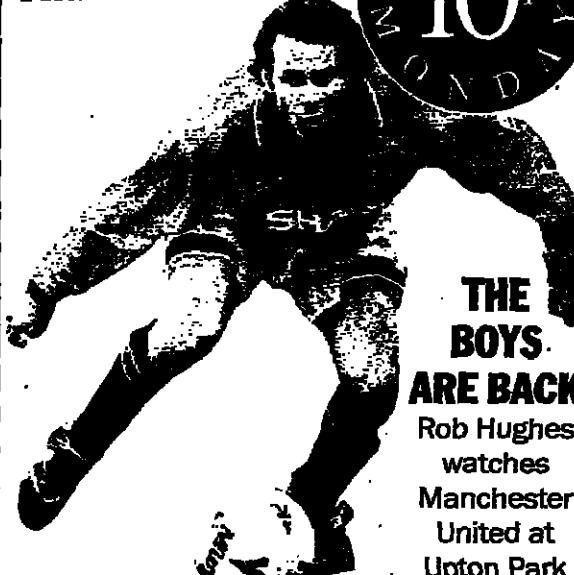


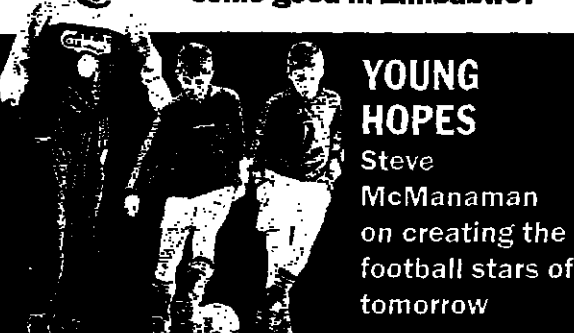
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Starts the arts week

MATTHEW PARRIS
The Columnist of the Year

Rifkind draws line at frontier-free Europe

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN told its EU partners yesterday that it had no intention of abolishing frontier controls or accepting other controversial proposals contained in a draft for a revamped Maastricht treaty. As Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, spelt out British resistance, France set the scene for a bumpy European summit in Dublin next week by attacking the Irish text as hopelessly weak.

Mr Rifkind, who was in Brussels to prepare for the summit, told the other

14 ministers that Britain viewed the treaty outline as fair but that it was misguided in several areas. The proposal to include an employment chapter committing states to job-creating policies "would not create a single new job". He also flatly rejected the call to turn Europe into a frontier-free area with common policing by 2001. Britain's island geography made border controls its best defence against crime and illegal immigration, he said. "It is a fact of EU life that the United Kingdom will retain its frontier controls."

Mr Rifkind attacked a proposal to

give Brussels more control over defence through the Western European Union, and he voiced scepticism over the proclaimed desire to extend majority voting to areas now governed by the veto. Outside the ministers' "conclave", he also took a swipe at Jacques Santer, the president of the EU Commission, for saying Britain's "moment of truth" over Europe was arriving. He said Mr Santer's words were just "splendid rhetoric".

Mr Rifkind's sanguine response to the draft treaty, which is due for completion next June, reflected Brit-

ain's satisfaction that the negotiations had so far delivered little of the red-blooded federalism that Germany and its allies had been calling for. Only on social affairs was Britain's position isolated from the rest, and that was already covered by the opt-out negotiated at Maastricht, Mr Rifkind noted.

British satisfaction contrasted with an outburst from Hervé de Charette, the French Minister, who said the draft treaty "reflected the mediocrity of the work done so far" at the inter-governmental conference, the rolling negotiations to rewrite the Maa-

stricht treaty. "Things are not working," he said.

He described the call for common policing and open internal frontiers as empty. France was appalled to note that Ireland had come up with no serious text on reforming the EU's machinery, including the Commission and the decision-making system.

Germany gave the Irish draft modest praise, but officials privately shared the French view that it was timid. Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac are expected to issue a strong call for a push to more energetic reform in Dublin.

Clarke could lead 20 protest resignations

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE warning by Kenneth Clarke that up to 20 ministers would join him in a mass resignation from the Government if John Major surrendered to the Euro-sceptics, is no idle threat.

The Chancellor has told his friends that the issue is much more important than Europe and the endless row over the single currency. It is, according to Mr Clarke, the soul of the Tory party at stake.

The Tory whips, aware of the potentially fatal damage of losing such an outspoken Chancellor so close to an election, have identified the most likely dissidents in the Government ranks. The arm-twisting and subtle flattery has already begun to ensure they stay on side.

But some of them have already made their minds up to join Mr Clarke in exile on the backbenches. Mr Clarke would be the unopposed champion of the Tory left. John Redwood the standard bearer of the right. Mr Major would be uncomfortably sandwiched in the middle.

The spotlight would fall first on the Cabinet ministers. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, is the most obvious suspect.

Mr Gummer, one of the longest-serving ministers, would be in a difficult dilemma. A committed European, he is also a close personal friend of the Prime Minister. "He would be torn between his loyalty to John Major and his passionate belief in the single currency. Europe might win," said one leading left-wing Tory MP last night. Sir

George Young, the Transport Secretary, who was sacked and resurrected by Margaret Thatcher, would also be targeted by the Chancellor's supporters. A question mark would also hang over William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who has a high regard for Mr Clarke.

A clutch of middle-ranking ministers could also follow the Chancellor. Most Tory MPs expect Ian Taylor, the Trade and Industry minister and MP for Esher, to be at the head of the procession.

Robin Squire, the junior education minister, and David Curry, the deputy to Mr Gummer, are also thought to be highly likely to go. Other high-profile ministers who their colleagues expect to consider their position include Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Aid minister. Lady Chalker, who is known to be unhappy at the rhetoric on Europe and the policy of non-cooperation in the beef war. She is still sore

over her failure to secure a Cabinet post.

Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister, is also known for his pro-European views. But his departure from the Government would be particularly damaging as he is a former Tory Party chairman. Anthony Nelson, a junior Treasury minister, might also follow his boss. Doubts also persist about Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces minister, who famously clashed with Baroness Thatcher over her views on Germany, is also at the centre of speculation, although his military background and training in loyalty mean he would probably resist the pressure to quit.

Mr Clarke, in an interview yesterday with his local newspaper the *Nottingham Evening Post*, made clear his desire to lead the Tory party. But he stressed that he would not challenge John Major.

Leading article, page 21



John Gummer, left, and Sir George Young: both might join the Chancellor on the backbenches



Gillian Clarke: "I haven't discovered a quilter among Cabinet wives" she said

Hints from the political wives are not a patch on Mrs Clarke

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

GILLIAN CLARKE, wife of the Chancellor, is joining the trend for politicians' wives to reveal home-loving glimpses of life behind the scenes. She is to go on television to tell all about her love for quilting.

For the first programme in a Channel 4 series on hobbies, *Collectors' Lot*, to be screened next month, Mrs Clarke has been filmed at the American Museum in Bath. She will be seen showing her favourite quilts, giving detailed tips on how best to practise her art, and recommending it as the perfect

antidote to the stresses of modern life.

"You sit in a comfy chair and just sew," she says. "The rhythm calms you down, lowers the pulse rate, lowers the blood pressure, puts you back on an even keel with the world after what may have been a rather frustrating and difficult day."

Hillary Clinton led the trend with a declaration of a hitherto unimagined enthusiasm for home-baking. Norma Major had a high-profile tour to promote her book about Chequers, and gave a TV interview on her home concerns. Cherie Booth, wife of Tony Blair, was a guest editor

of the women's magazine *Prima*.

Mrs Clarke says that her hobby began 20 years ago: "I had an ever-increasing pile of dress-making leftovers, and I wanted to do something with them. One of the joys of old quilts is the way they're a treasure house of old fabrics. You can see all sorts of things — most likely the householder's clothes-making leftovers."

The Chancellor himself prefers to relax in the pub or the curry house. Mrs Clarke adds: "I haven't yet discovered a fellow quilter among the Cabinet wives. I may do so. I shall probably have dozens of letters now."

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Universities will warn students of £1,000 fees

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MANY university prospectuses are to carry warnings that applicants face course fees of up to £1,000 after vice-chancellors agreed to drop their threat of a £300 entry levy.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said that a "substantial" number of universities would alert applicants for 1998 places that fees were possible. Gareth Roberts, the committee's chairman, said that £1,000 would be a realistic charge, but not everyone would have to pay the full amount. The wording of the warning has yet to be agreed, but it is unlikely to state the exact sum payable.

Mr Roberts said: "It could not be a figure that was so high that it put students off, or a sum that was too low. I suspect you are talking of a figure of around the £1,000 mark, with a safety net where I suspect that at least 50 per cent of the students would not have to pay the full sum." He said reductions were likely to be worked out on the same basis used by local authorities to assess a student's wealth when calculating grants.

Mr Roberts welcomed the extra £100 million found for universities in the Budget, but said that losses through tax charges and other changes reduced the gain to £21 million. The £300 entry fee was dropped not because of the Budget, but because of legal advice that students had not been given fair notice.

The committee appealed for all universities to wait until the publication of Sir Ron Dearing's report on higher education funding next summer before deciding whether to charge fees.

□ Vice-chancellors' cash shortage has led to a breakdown in pay talks with all staff, who rejected their offer of 1.5 per cent and staged a one-day strike last month. Mr Roberts said that, if emergency pay talks on Thursday failed, it would mean an end to national pay bargaining.

Decision today on museum charges

The trustees of the British Museum will meet today to decide whether to introduce admission charges in the light of a damning report on the museum's internal practices.

The meeting of the trustees, who include Sir David Attenborough, the broadcaster and naturalist, and the Duke of Gloucester, will be attended by Dr Robert Anderson, the museum's director, who has been stepping up his opposition to the idea of admission fees in recent weeks. The trustees have been studying a report by Andrew Edwards, a former Treasury deputy secretary, which said the museum was riddled with inefficiency. He proposed numerous job cuts and a £5 entrance fee to raise £8 million a year.

Murder victim's fiancée ill

The fiancée of Lee Harvey, 25, who was stabbed to death after the couple were pursued by another car in the county of Hereford and Worcester last weekend, has been admitted to hospital after collapsing earlier this week. Neither doctors nor police would disclose the nature of Tracie Andrews' illness last night but Mr Harvey's family said she had been under strain.

Eighth food poison death

An eighth pensioner died at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary yesterday of Scotland's *E. coli* 0157 food poisoning outbreak. The elderly man was from the Bonnybridge area. Numbers affected by the outbreak have risen to 370, with 194 people confirmed as being infected with the *E. coli* bacteria. Fifty-seven are in hospital and 25 adults and six children are seriously ill.

Schools' paedophile warning

A dossier, including a photograph, of a convicted paedophile who has been released from jail has been sent to 140 schools in South Wales. Police sent personal details of Fabio Lowrie, 42, to the director of education in Cardiff advising him to alert headteachers in schools in the area. A similar pilot scheme is under way in Portsmouth in which information about convicted paedophiles is sent to head teachers.

Pupil dies of meningitis

A 16-year-old boy from Sale Grammar School in Greater Manchester died of meningitis and a 15-year-old girl at the school is seriously ill with the disease. Both contracted meningococcal septicaemia, the severest form. As health officials sought to reassure parents, a sixth meningitis case was confirmed in a male student at University College, Cardiff.

Prison move for McAliskey

The pregnant daughter of former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey has been moved to Holloway prison after undergoing a hospital scan. Róisín McAliskey, 25, complained of stomach pains at the all-male Belmarsh prison where she is facing extradition. A Prison Service spokesman said ante-natal care was more readily available at Holloway.

Bookies bet on lottery rival

Bookmakers are to launch a pre-Christmas rival to the National Lottery. The game will feature a daily draw and punters will make bets on the numbers they think will come up. Unlike the lottery, which has a minimum £1 stake, bets as low as 10p will be allowed and players will be able to bet on single numbers or on several.

Academy

Continued from page 1

financial incompetence was set out last week in an internal memorandum from David Gordon, the newly-appointed secretary, to members of the academy's governing council and to its trustees, including the Prince of Wales, who is Trust president.

The rescue plan includes a proposal to remove control from the 12-man council of academicians and set up a new group, which would include representatives from all sections of the academy, including trustees and staff.

They also wish to boost the income for the academy and have upset some of the old guard by proposing the removal of the academicians' private assembly rooms to create more space and to convert part of the recently built Sackler gallery into a café.

The academy is self-financing and receives no grants from the taxpayer. It is planning to expand its gallery space and hopes to win lottery funds for the takeover of the premises of the nearby Museum of Man-kind which is to be re-housed by the British Museum.

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Drink fortifies spirit in world of TV festivals

BY ADRIAN LEE

PETER BAKER was known to enjoy a drink but had not acquired a reputation for excess in the world of television sales, where "lunches without alcohol are inconceivable". Former colleagues yesterday voiced support for the executive after he lost his claim for damages against a company doctor, who said that his drinking habits made him unsuitable for a lucrative job.

Mr Baker, 53, had spent 22 years in the business and regularly visited film and television festivals at a time when the hospitality was more lavish than today. His job was to sell television programmes to foreign broadcasters and, in an intensely competitive field, it was accepted that entertaining potential buyers was an integral part of his role.

"There is a lot of socialising," said Philip Jones, who was at the 1991 festival in Monte Carlo where Mr Baker admitted having a bottle of wine each day. "Of course, you could just sit down over a cup of tea, but it is very difficult trying to sell to someone who has got their drinking boots on. You sometimes can't back away from that."

Mr Jones, managing director of CTE Carlton, said: "Peter Baker did not stand out as being any worse than

anyone else. He did not have a reputation as a big drinker. I fully understand why he has brought this case. People were delighted when he got the job at NBC and then mystified when he didn't take it up."

Mr Jones, whose portfolio includes Inspector Morse, said the culture had changed in recent years. Up to 150 distributors might be competing for sales at each festival and a bottle of Perrier was increasingly as popular as a fine claret. "It is a rarefied atmosphere and you are on expenses in glamorous places, but you have to be on your toes 24 hours a day. It is hard work," Mr Jones said.

Stephen Leahy, chairman of Action Times, one of Europe's largest entertainment and television production companies, is renowned for throwing the best opening-night parties at Cannes. He said: "Lunches without alcohol are inconceivable. It is a sign of hospitality. We normally budget for a bottle of wine a head, then wait and see."

"I would have thought a bottle a day at Monte Carlo was quite modest when you remember that you start at 11am and might go on until three the next morning," Jane Millichip, who reports on the festivals for the magazine *TV World*, said there had

been a decline in lavish entertaining. "The champagne breakfast is rare. Often there are meetings every half hour. You can't say that being wine and dined for a week is all pain, but people come back exhausted."

She added, however: "It is still very much a relationship business. Relationships are fortified over a glass of wine and a canape."

Mr Baker lives in a large detached house in Great Bookham, Surrey, with his wife Beryl and three children. "He is a family man," one resident said. "I remember he used to be away all the time on business, often to America. But he didn't strike me as a big drinker. He's a nice chap."

Mr Baker began his television career in 1960 with Warner Brothers and had also worked for Production Associates, Global Television and Talbot Television. After losing the post with NBC Europe in 1991 he set up his own distribution company, Doljac.

Mr Baker had claimed that Dr Georges Kaye, the physician for NBC's parent company, GE, had misdiagnosed a drink problem. But a High Court judge ruled yesterday that he was not the victim of negligence by Dr Kaye.

Deputy Judge Robert Owen, QC, said a substantial body of



Peter Baker, left, had alleged negligence by Dr Georges Kaye, who said his drinking made him unsuitable for a job

TV firm's £8,000 drinks bill

BY ADRIAN LEE

reasonable medical opinion would have reached the same conclusion as Dr Kaye, a vastly experienced physician. Also, Mr Baker had been evasive about his drinking.

Doctors will be open to challenge from people undergoing company medicals, despite Mr Baker's defeat. The judge ruled that the case established a new principle: the doctor, although employed by the company, also had a responsibility to the patient.

Dr Kaye, who is based in Harley Street, was in France on company business but was relieved to have been vindicated, his solicitor said.

THE company that refused to employ Peter Baker because he had an alleged drink problem spent thousands of pounds on alcohol recently when it threw a huge party in a French chateau.

NBC celebrated its seventieth anniversary with a celebration in Cannes, on the penultimate night of the annual October television festival. The total bill for the evening came to £27,000, with

£8,000 spent on drinks. Most went on alcohol. "It was the highlight of the week," one partygoer said. "There were certainly some very drunk people there." The party went on until 3.30am. "It was still in full swing but that was when the chateau closed."

Many of those at the party attended festival events the next day for their companies. The High Court was told that NBC's American parent company, General Electric Technical Services, frowned on

alcohol. Those who drank at lunchtime and refused to change their habits were eased out of the company.

Mr Baker admitted drinking a bottle of wine a day at a festival in Monte Carlo, shortly before he underwent a pre-employment medical. A former medical director of the company told the court that it had a "strict policy on alcohol" because it was estimated that drinking by executives cost millions of dollars a year in poor decision-making.

Guard on Lawrence son after kidnap bid

BY JOANNA BALE

THE son of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence was escorted to school yesterday by detectives hunting a mystery couple who attempted to abduct him from his home.

Mr Lawrence's widow, Frances, has told police that a man and a woman claiming to be from the social services came to the house and asked for Lucien Lawrence, nine. They tried to persuade her to let them take him away for a medical examination, and referred to his GP by name.

At the Lawrence family home yesterday in Ealing, west London, Detective Inspector Alan Gale said: "Police are investigating an allegation of attempted abduction of Mrs Lawrence's son from this address on Wednesday afternoon. She was suspicious and refused access."

The man was aged about 40, 5ft 11in, with short brown hair and black-rimmed glasses, and wore a beige mackintosh. The woman was about 28, black, 5ft 6in, with short, black, bobbed hair, and wore a black jacket and black shirt.

Police said that there was no evidence of any link with a stalker who troubled Mrs Lawrence earlier this year. Officers are investigating any links with similar attempts to lure children in the west London area.

Mr Lawrence was stabbed last December outside St George's school, Maida Vale. A boy of 16 was held for life.

Custody death verdict prompts training call

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A CORONER yesterday called for far-reaching reforms to police training after a jury returned a verdict of accidental death on a black burglary suspect whose death in police custody sparked a riot in Brixton a year ago.

The family of Wayne Douglas, 25, stormed out of Southwark Crown Court as the foreman delivered the 8-1 majority verdict. Relatives claim that Mr Douglas, an unemployed former postman, was suffocated by police, who forced him to lie face-down with his hands cuffed behind his back in Brixton during and after his arrest last December.

The police, however, insisted that Mr Douglas had repeatedly lunged at them with two knives after he was stopped because he fitted the description of a burglar who had stolen a couple's credit cards and cash at knifepoint minutes earlier.

The jury took four hours 20 minutes to decide that Mr

Douglas, of Sydenham, south-east London, had died of heart failure due to stress, exhaustion and positional asphyxia.

The Southwark Coroner, Sir Montague Levine, said that he was "appalled" to learn that Metropolitan Police officers received just a few minutes' training on the form of asphyxia caused by suspects being held face down when subdued with their hands handcuffed behind them. His recommendations included more research into the problems of restraining suspects, guidelines for all officers on the risks of positional asphyxia where suspects are exhausted and stressed, refresher courses and a booklet to be issued to all police officers on the symptoms.

After the three-week hearing, Mr Douglas's brother Albert appealed for calm. He said the family were disappointed and angry with the verdict. "I have always been convinced that my brother

was suffocated in Brixton police station."

The family's solicitor, Louise Christian, said they would seek a judicial review. "The coroner made errors of law in the way he summed up. We sought a verdict of unlawful killing. There are two types of unlawful killing: gross criminal negligence in not getting Mr Douglas medical treatment or asking if he was all right; and unlawful force, because he was put on his front unnecessarily."

The coroner said the jury had to find both things took place when in fact the jury had to find only one.

Police claimed Mr Douglas violently resisted arrest when confronted. He was hit with police batons to make him drop a kitchen knife, then placed face down in a playground before being taken to the police station where he was again held face-down. Witnesses told the inquest they saw police raining blows on him with batons. But two post-mortem examinations found no evidence of injuries that would have contributed to his death.

After Mr Douglas was seen on the floor with his eyes bulging, his jaw locked and mucus coming from his mouth, officers tried to resuscitate him. A post-mortem examination by Dr Frederick Patel concluded he died from hypertensive heart disease. Professor Bernard Knight concluded positional asphyxia was the cause and found no evidence of heart disease.



Wayne Douglas: verdict of accidental death

Jogger has throat slashed

A WOMAN was slashed across the throat as she was out jogging in what police described as a motiveless and random attack.

Mary Robinson, 41, a mother of four, was running through Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire with a friend on Wednesday evening when she was attacked. She had 19 stitches in her throat and face after being cut with a long-bladed knife.

Mrs Robinson said last night she was convinced her assailant wanted to kill her. "All he wanted to do was to cut somebody's throat. He is not going to be happy with that. I think he will do it again."

Detective Inspector Neville Finkney of Thames Valley Police said: "This was an entirely motiveless attack. We have ruled out sex and robbery. It was gratuitous violence and for everyone's sake we need to catch this man as soon as possible." They were treating the case as attempted murder. The attacker was 5ft 9in tall, of stocky build and with cropped hair.

Murder charge PC 'had no choice'

BY TIM JONES

A POLICE officer accused of murdering an unarmed man told an Old Bailey jury yesterday that he had no choice but to fire his gun because he believed his life was in danger.

PC Patrick Hodgson, 49, said he was shaking when he shot and killed David Ewin as he tried to drive off in a Toyota car that had been boxed in by police and other vehicles near Hammersmith Bridge in west London.

The court was told that PC Hodgson, a specialist firearms officer, had been a member of the crew of a Metropolitan Police armed response vehicle when the incident occurred in February last year. PC Hodgson told the court he thought that Mr Ewin, 38, a suspected car thief, may have carried out an armed robbery when he saw him sprinting out of an off-licence.

He said Mr Ewin ignored his warnings to stop and ran into the car. "I drew my gun and shouted 'Armed police' to stop him escaping and at the same time to defend myself

from any possible threat from inside the car."

"While I hadn't seen him carrying a weapon, once in the car any weapon in the vehicle would have been a threat to me... I felt extremely vulnerable."

He said Mr Ewin, of Roehampton, southwest London, continued to shunt the vehicle backwards and forwards as he tried to escape. "I was totally shocked because with that one exception people had always complied with my demands when I pointed a gun at them." It was, he said, the only time he had fired a gun on operational duty, since qualifying in 1980 as a firearms instructor.

PC Hodgson, who denies murder, told Nicholas Purnell, QC, for the defence: "There was no other option, nothing else I could have done. I was never out of danger... I tried all the conventional methods but firing the gun was the last resort."

The case continues.

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Airlines challenge new restrictions on aircraft noise

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIRLINES yesterday won High Court approval for a legal challenge to government proposals for a clampdown on aircraft noise.

Mr Justice Popplewell gave permission for the International Air Transport Association, to seek a judicial review of tighter noise restrictions on aircraft taking off from Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

The regulations were due to come into force on January 1 but will be postponed pending the case, expected early in the new year. Environmentalists' groups were angered by the postponement. Dermot Cox, chairman of the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, said: "It is quite despicable that the airlines are not only refusing to accept that improvements have to be made to the environment but are able to postpone the Government's policies."

"They will learn eventually that they have to work with the

communities rather than confront them at every turn. Whatever happens, the Government must stand up to their bullying tactics."

The Transport Department planned to cut the maximum permitted noise by three decibels during the day and by two at night. Scientists said that this would have a significant impact on the amount of noise aircraft were permitted to make, and would encourage airlines to invest in quieter jets.

Data will argue that the new limits are unlawful, "not operationally achievable and will have a severe impact on the long-haul operations of major carriers". It said that hundreds of older aircraft would be barred and newer jets would have to reduce their load of fuel, cargo or passengers to conform to the regulations.

The Government signed an international agreement in 1990 which allowed airlines to

use older aircraft (known as chapter two jets) until 2002, an IATA spokesman said. "The British Government, however, introduced these new rules without consultation and many of our members, who are gradually phasing out these aircraft, are faced with having to stop flying to London from the beginning of next month."

IATA, which represents 254 airlines carrying 95 per cent of the world's international scheduled traffic, also wants to overturn a requirement for aircraft to reach a minimum height of 1,000ft at a given distance from take-off.

The Department of Transport is considering equally tight noise constraints on aircraft as they land. Complaints about aircraft noise at Heathrow are falling despite a sharp increase in the number of flights. But they are rising fast at Gatwick, where BA has switched hundreds of additional flights.



AGAINST all the weather forecasts, a blizzard lays a blanket of snow deep and crisp and even on the grounds of the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. Even more remarkably, it does it every evening at 4 o'clock on the dot for an hour because, tired of waiting for the vagaries of the English winter to produce a traditional white Christmas, the town's council has turned to technology to whip up the festive spirit. The snow is made from

White Christmas falls on the dot

foam and produced by machines hung in four trees in the grounds of the pavilion, once the Prince Regent's extravagant summer retreat. To add to the traditional Yuletide scene, carols are

sung and pony-trap rides are offered around the lawns against a backdrop of 40,000 fairy lights. Amanda Shepherd, a spokeswoman for Brighton Council, said: "It creates a traditional image of what we imagine Christmas to be like." The snow, which melts away each night, will fall until Christmas Eve when the machines will be turned off. Miss Shepherd said: "It is then up to nature if it wants to follow our lead."

Millennium exhibition cost rises by £200m

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich will cost £700 million, £200 million more than the most recent official estimate, according to its organisers. Their business plan for the event will be presented to the Millennium Commission next week.

The commission will decide whether the plan is acceptable or if the exhibition, which had a battle to raise the necessary private backing, should be scrapped.

The commission will not be asked to increase its £200 million contribution, and private sponsorship is expected to stay at £150 million. Instead, Millennium Central, the operating company, believes the extra cash will come from merchandising, media fees and gate receipts. It is also hoped that more sponsorship will be raised for touring events.

However, the organisers will make it clear that both the Government and Opposition must be prepared to guarantee borrowings for such a huge project in order for work to begin early next year.

Prince urged to help boost communities

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales is being urged to sound a "clarion call" to win greater public recognition of the role of local community enterprise in creating a happier, healthier and more just society.

The Prince met a delegation from Business in the Community in Liverpool yesterday. He was told that government, local authorities, industry and commerce, and seats of learning — particularly schools for business, medicine and architecture — needed to be made aware of the benefits of involving people who had previously felt excluded from decisions affecting their lives.

The Prince was reminded of his own recently stated wish to see a spiritual as well as a physical dimension to the coming millennium celebrations. Partnerships between business and local communities required a moral as well as a financial commitment, and in the process encouraged new attitudes to people's duties and responsibilities to their fellow citizens.

The delegation, led by Peter Davis, chief executive of the Prudential Corporation, told the Prince that existing public funding structures were quite inappropriate in meeting community needs.

The Rev Andrew Mawson, chief executive of the Bromley-

by-Bow Centre in east London, cited a recent survey among community groups which found that only 1 per cent believed the present funding mechanisms were satisfactory. Money from the Treasury went to local authority housing, education and social services departments and there was widespread waste.

The Prince agreed that the Treasury was "a problem"

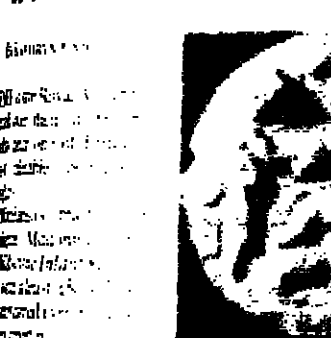
and suggested also that the National Audit Office was a dampener on funds being spent more imaginatively. He urged delegates to take the initiative in showing how money was wasted.

The awards have been sponsored by The Times since their inception in 1986. Reports on some of the entries for the 1996 Community Enterprise Awards will appear in The Times shortly.

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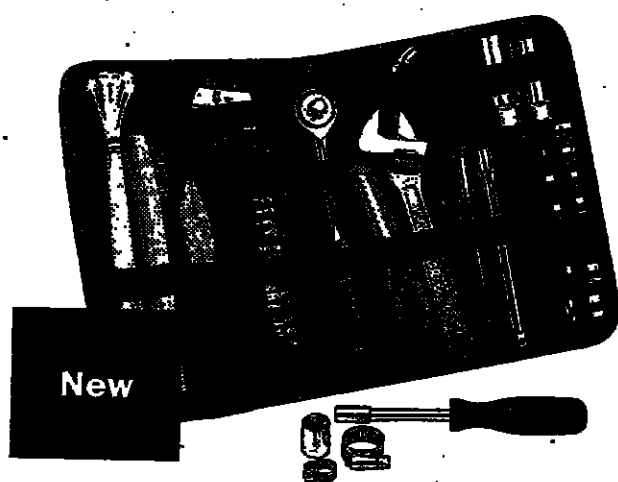
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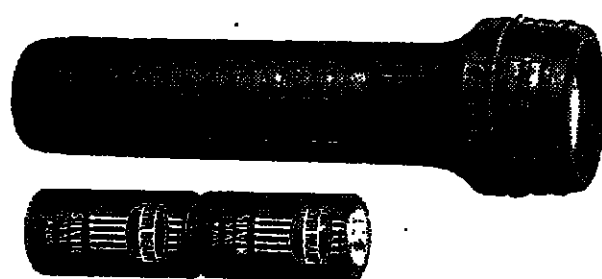
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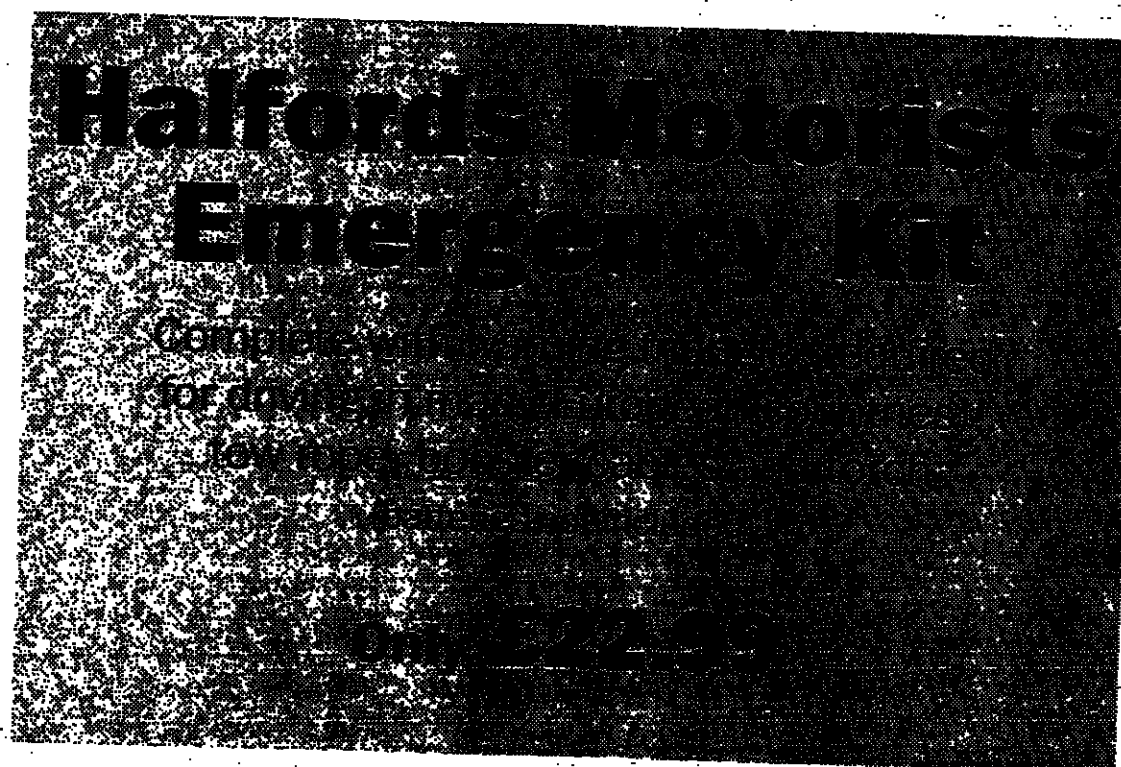
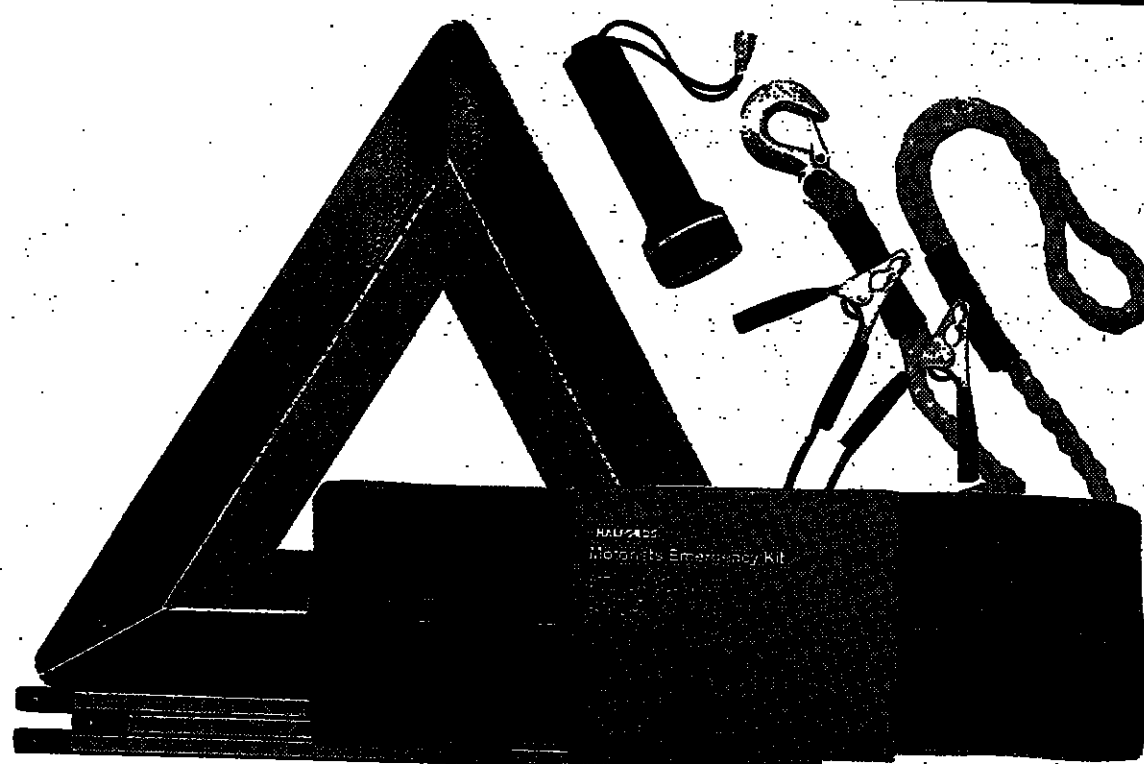
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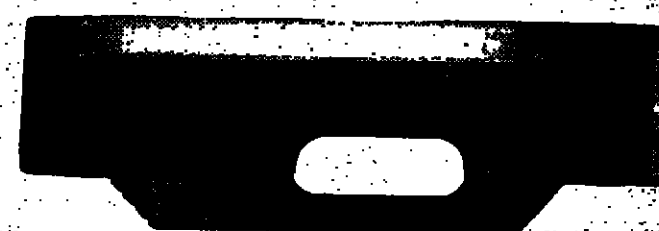
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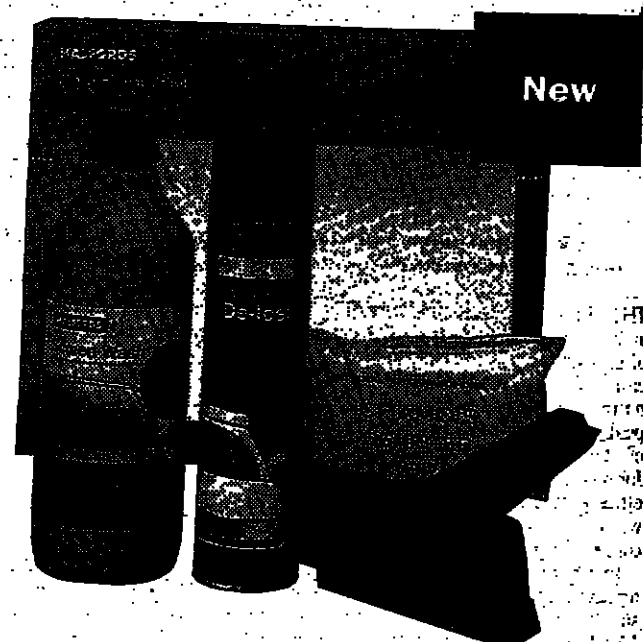
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Howard
fresh in
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£28,000 award
discrimination

SCENTS
WONDI



Harrods

Howard considers fresh inquiry on Hillsborough

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE Home Secretary has said he will consider carefully a request for a fresh inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster in the light of concerns raised by a television drama-documentary screened on Thursday.

Michael Howard was handed a letter asking for a new inquiry by Kathy Ellis of Carlisle, the daughter of one of the victims, yesterday. The Home Secretary told her: "I will look at this letter and any other communication I receive and I will consider it very carefully."

Richard Wells, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, which took most of the blame for the tragedy in which 96 fans died, yesterday found himself in an argument with the families of the victims and their supporters. Mr Wells had said that on his first viewing of the Granada TV programme he saw "nothing new". He promised, however: "We will replay the film and I give a solemn undertaking that if there is new material we will pursue it."

The Hillsborough Family Support Group said that the programme included new evi-

dence supporting its case. Trevor Hicks, the group's chairman, who lost his daughters Sarah and Vicky in the disaster and whose marriage has since broken up, said it was enough for a jury to alter the inquest verdict of accidental death.

The film touched on missing videotapes of crowd scenes at the ground and witness statements being changed. It also highlighted the families' claim that a security camera covering the pens where the fans were crushed was working, contrary to statements at the time.

The inquest was told that the camera was defective, preventing police in the stadium control room seeing that the pens were full as they decided to open the gates to relieve pressure from outside. Roger Houldsworth, a technician who installed and maintained the camera at the Sheffield Wednesday ground, has signed an affidavit saying that the camera was functioning. Mr Hicks said: "If Mr Houldsworth is right, other people must be wrong. We are calling on the Home Secretary

to investigate. We would like a criminal investigation into perjury, collusion and possibly perverting the course of justice."

Jimmy McGovern, the writer of the programme, said: "Now everyone knows there is a lot of evidence that contradicts what the police have said. The programme accused South Yorkshire Police of the greatest incompetence since the Keystone Kops and all the Chief Constable can say is there is nothing new."

Dr Stefan Popper, the coroner who conducted the inquests, said the accidental death verdicts returned on those who died did not close the door to criminal prosecutions, but he believed a new inquest would be futile because of the limitations on coroners' courts.

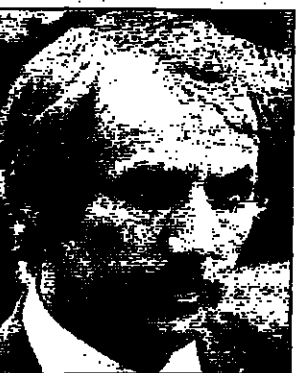
Mr Wells, who became Chief Constable of South Yorkshire in 1990, said: "My approach has always been that this was an avoidable disaster. The South Yorkshire Police have stood up since I took command and acknowledged our part in the tragedy. I have repeatedly said sorry, but we want other parties to say, 'Yes we are part of this too'. It is now time to move on."

He said that his force had reservations about the programme when they met its makers a year ago and declined to assist them. "We were concerned about Jimmy McGovern's ability to be objective about a subject on which he confesses to deeply held views."

"Claims about missing video tapes and changed statements were all issues that were known about and dealt with in an above-board fashion in the earlier hearings."



Richard Wells, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, and Trevor Hicks, of the Hillsborough family group



£28,000 award over racial discrimination upheld

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service has lost an attempt to reduce damages of £28,000 awarded to a black employee over racial discrimination. An employment appeal tribunal upheld the level of damages won by Claude Johnson, a prison auxiliary officer, after finding it was the worst case its members had come across.

In its ruling, published yesterday, the appeal tribunal said that while the award to Mr Johnson, 27, announced "last year, was 'larger than any

other reported award for injury to feelings", it was appropriate.

"This was a campaign of discrimination over a period in excess of 18 months involving exposure to humiliation, ostracism, ridicule and contempt at the respondent's [Mr Johnson's] place of work."

Mr Johnson, who works at Brixton jail, was ostracised by other employees there after complaining about a black prisoner being attacked by a number of officers. He was no longer asked to play cricket with colleagues or join them for a drink. After complaining

to the governor about his treatment, for six months he was given less overtime than white colleagues.

An officer told Mr Johnson, who was born in Britain, to "sing because all you guys can sing". On another occasion he was told to run with some bags because "all you guys are athletes".

Mr Johnson, who has been employed by the Prison Service since 1989 and earns £12,000 a year, had been awarded £20,000 for injury to his feelings plus £7,500 aggravated damages and a further £1,000 damages.



In which Pooh and Piglet find a fortune

An original drawing of Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet going Woozle hunting fetched a record £80,500, well in excess of the estimated £10,000-£15,000, at Christie's in London yesterday. Four E.H. Shepherd illustrations of the A.A. Milne characters, drawn for the 1926

book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, sold for a total of £216,200. Each had been estimated to make between £8,000 and £12,000. The prices overshadowed Beatrix Potter, whose *Hunza Munca* and *Peter Rabbit* fetched £5,750 (estimate £2,000-£4,000).

Lawyers told to inform on bad-risk clients

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS have a duty to warn mortgage companies if clients who are would-be borrowers are unlikely to be able to meet their payments, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The test case affects the large majority of residential mortgage transactions, in which a solicitor acts on behalf of both the borrower and the lender. The judgment means that lawyers cannot be bound by confidentiality if they discover that the potential borrower is a bad risk.

The Solicitors' Indemnity Fund, which will have to meet the costs of the case, is expected to appeal because more than 1,000 similar cases are pending, involving transactions worth millions of pounds.

The case concerned a loan of £91,000, granted in 1989 by the National Home Loans Corporation, to homeowners in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire. The owners had obtained a £38,500 mortgage in 1986 from the Halifax Building Society and had remortgaged the property for £71,000 with the Tamar Mortgage Company Number One in 1988.

They fell £4,000 behind with their repayments, but did not disclose this when they obtained a second remortgage from the National Home Loans Corporation. Their solicitors throughout were Giffen Couch and Archer, of Leighton Buzzard, which also acted for the corporation. Fe-

licity Butler, the solicitors' conveyancing executive, knew that the owners had fallen behind with repayments and had been threatened with eviction, but told the court that she assumed the mortgage company had made its own inquiries and was aware of the arrears. She believed that the corporation "was the type of lender that would lend to borrowers who would be considered more risky... I would not have thought the fact that the borrowers were in arrears would have been of any concern to it."

The judge, Graeme Hamilton, QC, disagreed. "The solicitor does not necessarily know whether any — and, if so, what — investigations have been carried out," he said. "In this case the defendant's solicitor did not know. It follows this important piece of information should have been passed on."

The owners defaulted on payments, and, because house prices fell shortly afterwards, the corporation was unable to recover all its losses. The judge awarded £80,000 damages against the solicitors, saying that the loss was caused by the corporation "embarking upon a course of action upon which it would not have embarked had it been given the correct information. The duty in this case is to supply information."

Weekend Money, page 29

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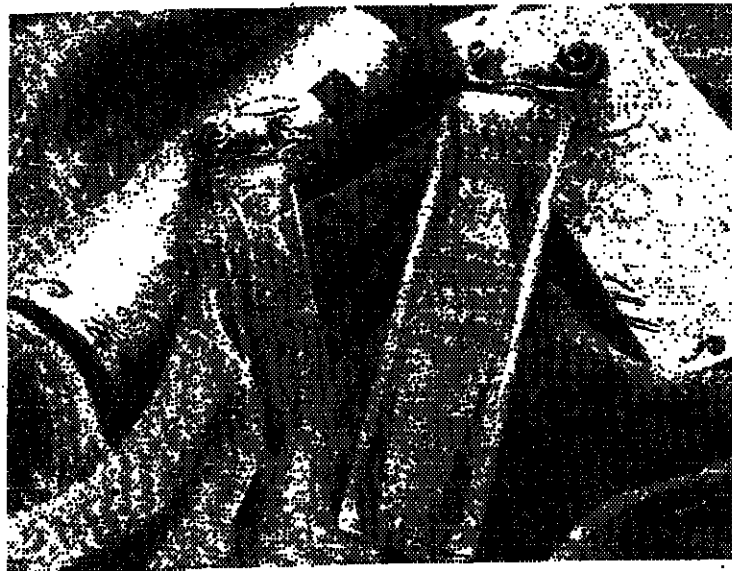
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Government on brink of ordering new cattle cull

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

APPROVAL for a selective cull of older cattle is expected next week, raising hopes of a relaxation of the European Union ban on British beef.

Plans for the cull were discussed with a delegation from the European Parliament, which visited Britain to assess the effectiveness of measures to protect public health against BSE.

Lord Plumb, leader of the Tory MEPs, hinted strongly that an announcement was imminent after the visit ended yesterday. "I am hoping that in a matter of days we should be getting some announcement on this," he said.

Philip Whitehead, Labour MEP for Staffordshire and Derby, said that a lifting of the beef ban would be "much more probable" if the Government gave the go-ahead for the selective cull.

The European Parliament delegation inspected abattoirs and rendering plants. They met Roger Freeman, the Cabinet minister in charge of co-ordinating BSE policy, Ministry of Agriculture officials, scientists, farmers' leaders and consumer groups.

The slaughter of up to 147,000 cattle identified as being most at risk of develop-

ing BSE was agreed at the EU summit in Florence last June but the Government put the cull on hold in September, voicing doubts about its scientific justification.

Some 1.2 million cattle have been incinerated under a separate scheme to keep those more than 30 months old out of the food chain. This was aimed at restoring consumer confidence rather than speeding the eradication of BSE. Cattle under 30 months old are regarded as the least likely to have eaten the infected meal thought to have caused BSE.

The selective cull would involve older cattle, mainly dairy cows, reared alongside animals that have already died of BSE and likely to have eaten the same feed.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, still disputes the scientific grounds for the selective cull but is understood to have been persuaded by the political arguments.

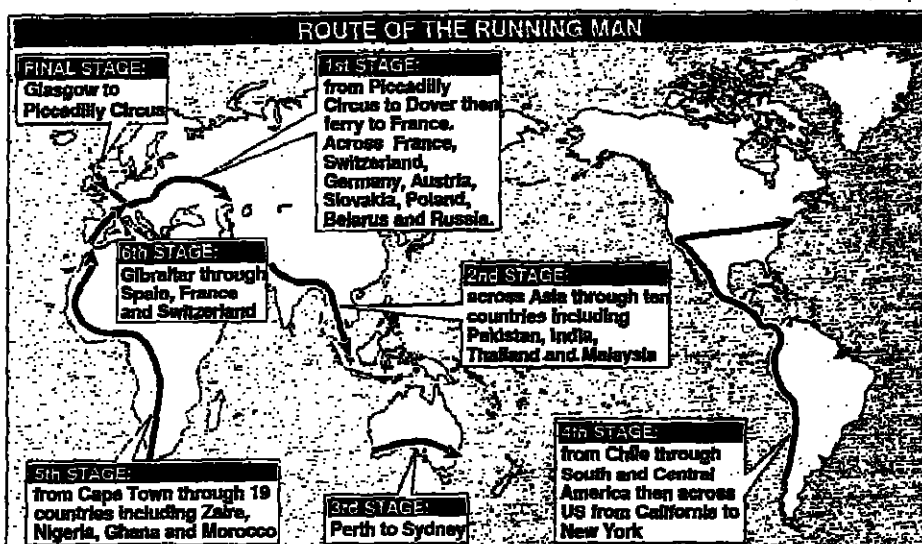
Lord Plumb said he believed the selective cull should involve about 100,000 animals, less than the original number because some would already have been killed under the over-30-months scheme. Ian Gardiner, policy director of the National Farmers' Union, said: "A cull of close to 100,000 animals would be about right, and we want the Government to get on with it."

Compensation for farmers could top £100 million. The cost per cow would be high because many animals would still have years of milking and calving left in them.

The European Parliament delegation was impressed by the BSE safeguards in place. Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, a German MEP, said the export ban would not have been needed had the measures been enforced with rigour from the outset.



Plumb: hoping for an announcement in days



See you in three years, says jogger on a lap of the world

By RUSSELL JENKINS

ROBERT GARSIDE sets out for a jog this morning with the world at his feet. He plans a 33,000-mile route, which would make him the first person to run round the globe, returning home just in time for the big New Year's Eve celebrations in December 1999.

The psychology graduate from Stockport, Greater Manchester, expects to wear out about 50 pairs of running shoes. His timetable includes freezing Russian winters and the scorching Saharan sun. And he has no back-up team: he plans to run alone, carrying his survival gear in a 27-litre rucksack.

"My biggest fear is not physical hardship, but loneliness," Mr Garside, 29, said yesterday. He will be kissing goodbye to his girlfriend, Joanna Souter, 20, for his

farewell from Piccadilly Circus for the first leg through western Europe.

"I am as gregarious as anybody. I hope the relationships and friendships I have on the way will help. But I am a moving entity, transient to say the least, so I am just going to have to make do with that. Running is my life and this is the ultimate challenge."

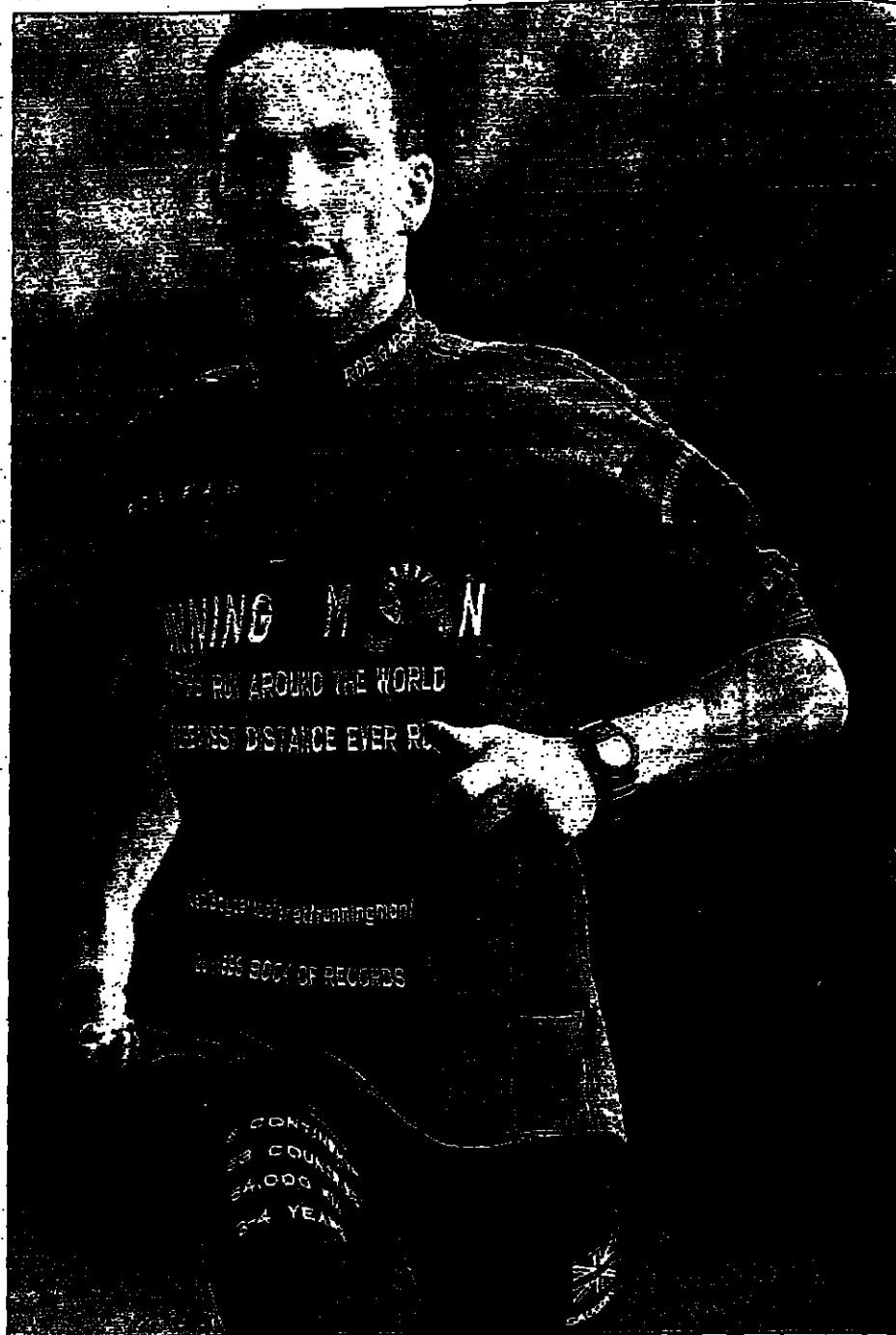
He hopes to raise £2 million for Greenpeace through the Running Man Millennium Appeal, which involves the furthest distance ever run. He will report at the police stations of every town he runs through to help The Guinness Book of Records to verify his logbook. He hopes that his presence will go before him and that well-wishers — some of them charting his progress via the Internet — will offer him overnight accommoda-

tion. If not, he will be sleeping where he can.

In the new year, he hopes to cross Poland, Belarus and Russia, where temperatures are expected to drop to minus 40C. He has a Himalayan survival suit, weighing almost two kilos, for overnight stops.

There is also a lighter double hooped bivvy-bag for the warmer climates of Asia, Australia, the Americas and Africa. His kit also includes a 3.2 litre water container, a wearable mosquito net, a Lycra running suit with a fleece lining, a solar-powered Walkman and two tapes.

On a trial 2,000-kilometre run across southern Africa, he encountered wild baboons and poisonous snakes, but it showed that a target of up to 40 miles a day is feasible, he said. "I have made up my mind to do it and I will."



Robert Garside on a final practice run yesterday for his transglobal marathon

Scientists itching to get secret of midge's love bites

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WHEN a female biting midge says No she really means Yes, scientists studying their courtship ritual have found.

Researchers discovered that the females, including those of the vicious scourge of Scottish holiday-makers the Highland midge, check the health of an eager male by putting up a struggle. Dr Alison

Blackwell of the University of Dundee said yesterday: "The female is, it appears, assessing the fitness of the male by the vigour of his response to her unreciprocated behaviour. This wrestling can carry on for a couple of minutes, which is quite a long time for a midge."

The researchers have also found that starving a male keeps him keen, at least in the midge world. "Starved males are the keenest to mate, presumably because they are run-

ning out of energy and must do something now or never."

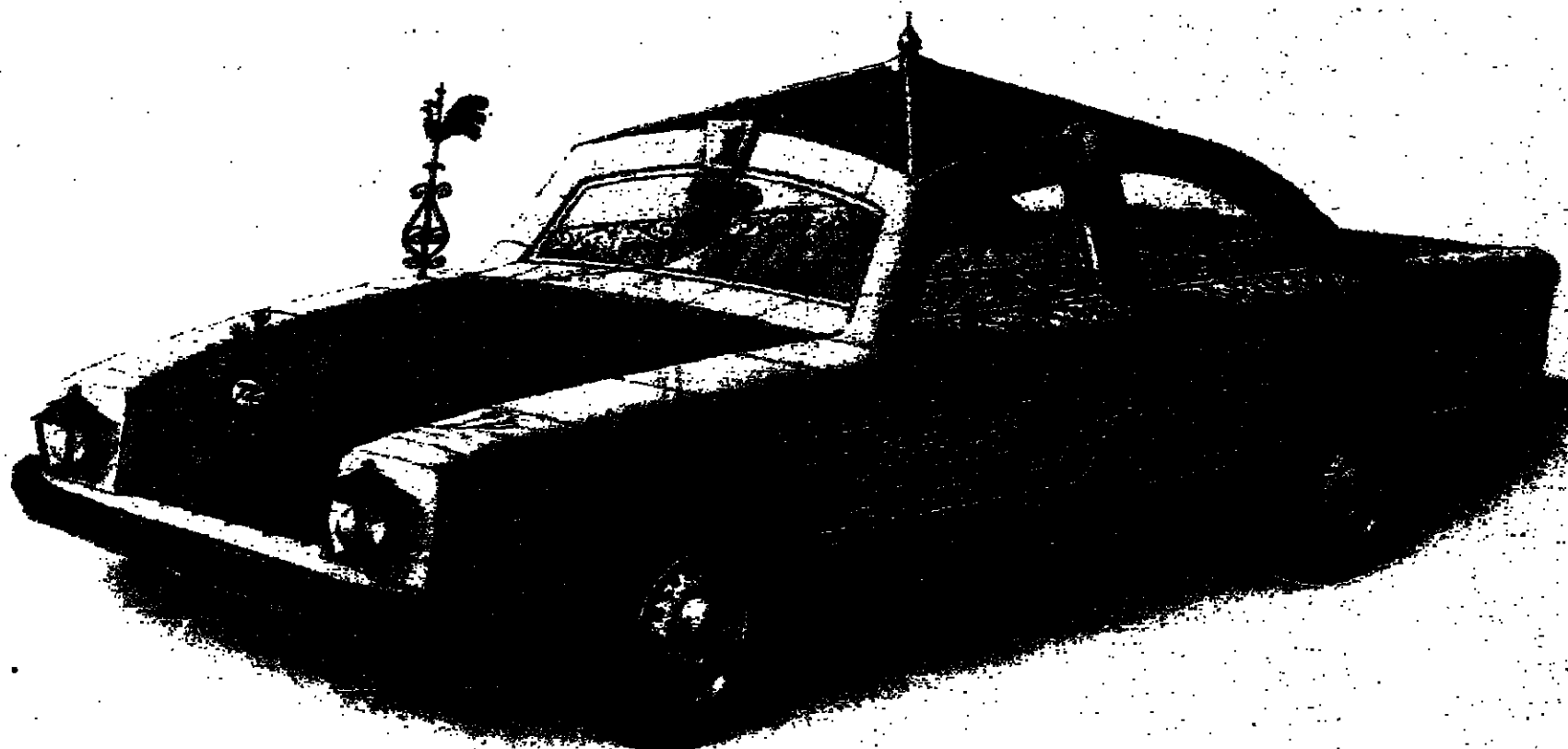
"The message is: if you want peak sexual form, starve him," said Dr Blackwell, whose studies have been carried out with Jacqui Mair, a postgraduate at the university. The findings, details of which will be disclosed later this month at a meeting of the British Ecological Society at Durham University, have come from studies of the common biting midge, which lives on farm-

land and feeds off cattle, and the Highland midge. While farmland midges tussle on land the females of the Highland species tussle in-flight. "The males swarm and then the wrestling process goes on in the air," Dr Blackwell said. "Then they fall to the ground and finish it off."

By studying the courtship ritual, the scientists hope to discover a way of controlling the Highland midge. The bloodsucking insect has been known to clear whole campsites

overnight and ruin many a fine fishing holiday. It is even claimed they stopped a train on the hill out of Achnasheen in the Highlands by swarming the rails in such numbers the locomotive lost its grip. Dr Blackwell said there was clearly a female chemical or pheromone involved in initiating courtship and mating. By isolating the active ingredient it might be possible to develop ways of luring the males into traps to control numbers.

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British
shot in
red light

Footballer fine
brawl in restaur

British soccer fans shot in Vienna's red light district

By DANIEL McGRORY

TWO Manchester United supporters were shot early yesterday morning after staying on in Vienna to celebrate the team's European Cup victory. One of the men was said to have been critically injured.

Austrian police said that Steven Daye, 33, and Christopher McKenna, 32, were ambushed from a passing car. Two other fans escaped unhurt in the attack, which may have followed an argument in a bar in Vienna's red light district.

A police spokesman said Mr Daye, from Chadderton, Greater Manchester, was "seriously injured and is in danger of his life". He was in intensive care at the Danube Hospital after a three-hour operation. Doctors also operated on Mr McKenna to remove a bullet from his leg.

Detectives later interviewed Mr McKenna, from Blackley, Greater Manchester, about the incident, and British diplomats spoke to the two fans who escaped unhurt. Joseph Vickers, 38, and Paul O'Neill, 30, tried to discover why they were attacked.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Mr McKenna told the *Manchester Evening News*: "The four of us were just chatting and laughing when suddenly car windows and shop windows around us shattered. The next thing I knew Steven and I were lying on the floor with blood everywhere."

Despite an assertion by the British Embassy that the attack followed a "vocal altercation" with Austrian fans, Mr McKenna said the United fans had got on well with the locals, even though Rapid Vienna had lost 2-0 on Wednesday.

"We were really impressed with how friendly the Austrians were," he said. "We'd had a brilliant holiday and had been out celebrating, but didn't go overboard and decided to go back to the hotel because our flight left at 4am."

Mr McKenna, who has been told that he may have to remain in hospital for a week, said: "I have no idea why we were attacked."

An employee at the Piccolo Sauna bar, a sprawling, neon-lit establishment featuring exotic dancers, remembered the United fans arriving with two Austrians who were well known in the area and sharing several drinks before an argument began. The barman said: "When the argument got too loud they were all told to leave. The British went first, followed by the Austrians."

The United fans said that as they stood on the pavement a white Mercedes slowed and a gunman leaned from a window and fired a volley of shots.

A police spokesman said: "They were shot at from someone in the car, but we do not know what sort of weapon it was."

"We do not know what the argument was about but we do not think it was about football. It may have been about money or girls. It must have been serious. We do not normally have shootings here. It is peaceful."

Sidney Daye said his brother Steven was an avid fan of Manchester United and went to all the team's games, at home and abroad.

The club said last night that it was "shocked and saddened" by the attack and was co-operating with the Foreign Office and the Austrian authorities in the investigation. A spokesman said: "The match itself passed off peacefully. There was a good atmosphere both in and around the stadium with supporters of both teams exchanging pennants and other souvenirs."



My Twinn offers a choice of skin tone, eye colour, hair shade and spectacles

A Stepford doll for little horrors

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE latest toy fad to hit the United States is a "clone" doll tailor-made to resemble the child who will own it. My Twinn will, according to its advertising literature, "help kids and families feel good about themselves and appreciate how special and unique they are".

Families supply photographs and physical details of their daughters, including hair samples, and a Colorado company's plastic surgeons draw up a 23in figurine in floral dresses and hair bows.

There is a choice of six skin tones, 12 eye colours, 13 hair shades and matching spectacles if required. The basic doll costs £87, but extras such as matching dresses can bring the price to £210.

The doll, with its slightly sinister echoes of the film *The Stepford Wives*, in which the men in a small town replace their wives with life-size computerised models, is not available in Britain but can be ordered from America. Gerry Masters, of the British Association of Toy Retailers, said yesterday: "It sounds sick, but there's no accounting for American bad taste."

Castaways

THE SUNDAY TIMES



Of all the victims of the millionaire American con-man Armand Hammer, the most poignant were his mistress, Bettye Jean Murphy, and their secret daughter, Victoria.

Read their story in THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

Footballer fined for brawl in restaurant

A SOCCER star caught on video throwing chairs across a restaurant was fined £4,500 yesterday. Two staff were injured in the attack by Lee Bowyer, an England under-21 international, and two friends at a drive-in McDonald's.

Keith Grant, the magistrate, told Bowyer that he had narrowly escaped jail. "This clearly was a disgraceful incident and that is confirmed by what I have seen on the video. It took place in a public place."



Bowyer: seen on video throwing chairs at staff

People were put in fear," Mr Grant said.

Bowyer, 19, who plays for the Premiership side Leeds United, admitted a charge of affray at Thames Magistrates' Court, London, last month. Yesterday he was also ordered to pay a total of £175 to the two McDonald's staff. Leeds United had fined him £4,000.

Ben Bornici and John Nwile, both 19, were fined £600 and £400 respectively for their part in the incident on the Isle of Dogs, east London, in September.

Stephen Pollard, for Bowyer, told the court that the footballer was of excellent character and that there had been provocation from one of the staff, who was seen on the video waving a metal bar.

Mr Pollard said that Bowyer's strength of character had been demonstrated by the way the midfielder had played for Leeds United in the Premiership match against Chelsea last Sunday. "He was extremely fearful of today's appearance but he gave his all," Mr Pollard said.



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Schoolboy stab



Time's up for Liffey clock lost in slime

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DUBLIN'S attempt to count down the seconds to the millennium by installing an underwater clock has fallen foul of the murky waters of the River Liffey.

The £250,000 digital timepiece, funded by the National Lottery, was submerged in the river in March to count down to the millennium. But within days nobody could read the nine neon digits. Algal bloom, attracted by the clock's light and heat, took root, turning the clock into a fuzzy yellow haze. Dubliners peering into the Liffey from O'Connell Bridge quickly dubbed it "the chime in the slime".

It was lifted out of the water in August before the annual Liffey swim and was never put back. Yesterday the clock was heading for the scrapheap. Paula McEvoy, a spokeswoman, said: "I still think it is a beautiful idea, but maybe an idea that is ahead of its time."

The underwater installation was chosen from 30 submissions by architects, designers and artists for the National Lottery Countdown 2000 competition. A judging panel decided that the clock was the most innovative and interesting idea.

The six-tonne, flat, rectangular clock was powered by electricity transmitted via underwater cables. It was turned on with much razzmatazz on March 15, with 119 million seconds left to count. About 10,000 people gathered along the walls of the Liffey to see it light up, but few have managed to see it since.

The lottery spent almost four months deliberating what should be done with the slime-ridden clock. Ms McEvoy said the expense of scraping algae off it until 2000 would be more than it cost to build and install.

Grainne Hassett, one of the two Dublin-based architects behind the design, insisted that the clock "worked spectacularly well and looked fabulous". She added that the algal problems could be solved with more time and research. "We have had calls from all over the world about putting clocks into rivers, so maybe we will find a buyer."

The families with courage at their heart

Battle to raise funds and save children

BY JOHN YOUNG

NATHAN BUTCHER, aged six, lay in the paediatric intensive care ward at Guy's Hospital after a heart bypass operation. His small body was draped and wired to a mass of medical equipment.

That was last Monday. Less than 72 hours later he was up, dressed, talking, laughing and attending school classes in another part of the building. Yesterday, his sister Katie, 4, came to visit. Barring a relapse, Nathan should be able to go home next week - his father, Chris, is keen to take him fishing.

Nathan, from Paddock Wood, Kent, was diagnosed at birth as suffering from aortic stenosis, a malfunction of the aortic valve. A heart murmur had been detected during pregnancy, and he was born six weeks early by Caesarean section.

Three weeks later, while he was still in hospital, he became breathless, and a small balloon was inserted into the valve and inflated to keep it open. Since then, according to his mother, Sally, he has led a normal, physically active life but, during a routine check-up earlier this year, a scan disclosed that he would soon need a more complex operation. "They decided to operate before he became ill," Mrs Butcher said yesterday.

Nathan's story exemplifies the astonishing progress of the Evelina Children's Hospital, the paediatric unit of the Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust in southeast London, in treating heart complaints that only a few years ago would have been considered inoperable.

But the costs are high. Money is a constant problem and, at the very time when Nathan was on the operating table, doctors, nurses and parents of other children who have survived heart operations were gathered in a hospital courtyard to release a stream of red and blue balloons to publicise an appeal for funds.

Among them was Laura McCormack and her 16-month-old son, Conor, from



Beating the odds: Nathan Butcher, 6, lies in intensive care, with his mother Sally at his bedside. Three days later, he was up and about

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Woolwich, southeast London. Born a month early by Caesarean section, Conor has not had the easiest start in life, with a cleft palate and a club foot as well as his deformed heart. He suffers regular chest infections and has made several return visits. Given his handicaps, he looks remarkably fit and happy. Mrs McCormack said: "When I

was first told about Conor's condition, it didn't really sink in until I saw the surgeon later. I was scared of giving birth because of the thought that he might not live, but we decided to go ahead."

Another patient, Andrew Kerry, was born just over a year ago. When his heart condition was detected by scan in the twentieth week of pregnancy, his parents Colin and Caroline Kerry felt devastated. Mr Kerry said: "I tried to find out as much as I could, which wasn't encouraging. The operation had not then been performed successfully."

"We were faced with three choices: abortion, going ahead with the birth but refusing surgery, or agreeing to the operation." They chose surgery, but Mrs Kerry said: "I think any choice would have been very difficult. If I had been a single mother, without the love and support

of a husband, I am sure it would have been very different."

Max Webb, aged six weeks, was back at Guy's with his parents, Kim and Martyn, and his older sister, Mariha. Mrs Webb was tested during pregnancy for abnormal chromosomes in the foetus. She was given the all clear and was six months' pregnant before she learnt of her baby's heart condition.

She said: "He was kicking away in my stomach and already he seemed to be a personality in his own right. So we decided to let fate take its course. With six months gone and only three to go, we felt we should let him take his chance."

"Once a child is born, I don't think the third possibility, just letting it die, is ever really on. You just want to give it every chance and, my God, I'm glad we did."

The Evelina Appeal

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Schoolboy stabs cyclist in back

A CYCLIST needed emergency surgery after being stabbed in the back by a schoolboy as he pedalled away from traffic lights. Matthew Pogson, 21, received a 6in wound in the unprovoked attack.

The stabbing came after two

boys, aged 13 or 14, taunted Mr Pogson, the father of a five-month-old son, when he stopped at lights in Portsmouth on his way home from work on Thursday evening.

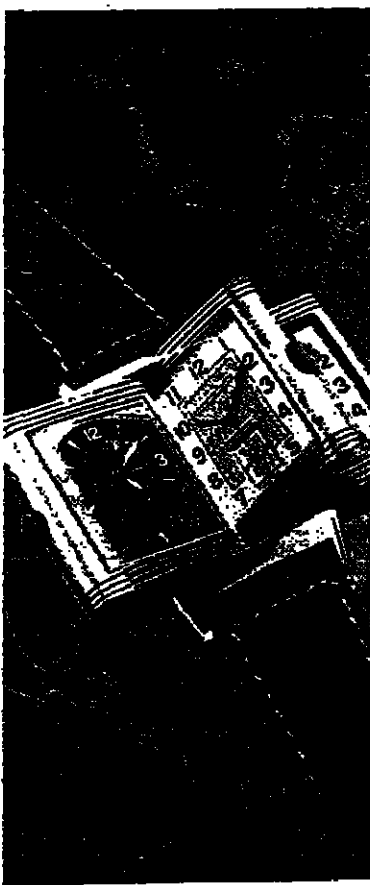
As Mr Pogson pulled away he heard one of the boys

chasing after him on foot. Within seconds the schoolboy had plunged the knife into his back.

Doctors told Mr Pogson he was lucky to be alive. Yesterday his condition was described as stable.

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Coastline gems first to be protected by conservation funds

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE sea caves and seals of the Northumberland coast, the dolphins of Cardigan Bay and the soft coral sea-fans off Devon are to be better protected, thanks to a big conservation grant from the European Commission.

Twelve coastal sites have become the first in Europe to get backing under the Commission's Life-Nature programme in recognition of the international importance of their wildlife. A network of marine and land-based areas, called Natura 2000 sites, are being designated across the Continent, of which these British ones will form part.

The funds — £2 million from the Commission, matched by £2 million from British nature agencies — will allow regional task forces to draw up action plans aimed at preserving the sites from threats such as development, fishing and pollution. They will also pay for the mapping of reefs, bays and estuaries, and the monitoring of rare plants such as soft corals.

Dr Derek Langslow, chief executive of English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, said: "This is a major boost for our marine conservation work within England and the United Kingdom. It will enable us to give the organisations that manage these

areas money to support conservation work, and it should ensure that such areas remain a source of inspiration for us and future generations."

In England, five sites called Special Areas of Conservation have won backing. The areas include the North Northumberland Coast, noted for its sea caves, breeding population of grey seals on the Farne Islands, and Arctic species such as the wolf fish.

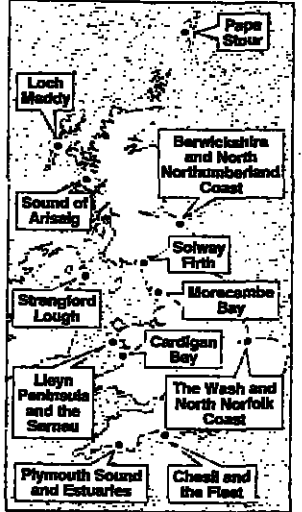
A management plan could help to create a better balance between the traditional interests of fishermen, who net migratory salmon, and the

needs of the seals. There are also conflicts between the interests of wildflower and water sports enthusiasts, and the needs of the birdlife.

Other sites in England include Morecambe Bay, and also the Wash and north Norfolk coast, which is noted for its common seal populations, waders and wildfowl, insect life and large expanse of unspoilt salt marshes. Another is the Plymouth Sound and related estuaries, noted for their submerged sandbanks and species such as the pinky-white sea fans that normally thrive in warm waters.

In Scotland, several sites — the Berwickshire coast, Loch Maddy, Papa Stour, the Solway Firth and the Sound of Arisaig — are to be given funding. In Northern Ireland, Stranorlar Lough, which is noted for its spectacular sheltered waters, has been picked.

In Wales, Cardigan Bay and its famous bottlenose dolphin population, the Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau special area of conservation, will also benefit from the funding. The latter is noted for Sarn Badrig, also known as St Patrick's Causeway. It is an example of moraine, a heap of glacial rubble left after the last ice Age, and is the only one in Britain.



Medal for saving Monty found

By JOANNA BAILE

A BRAVERY medal awarded to a private who saved Viscount Montgomery of Alamein when he was a young lieutenant in the First World War has returned to his family 40 years after going missing.

Edward Darlow was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal after rescuing the injured Montgomery from a battlefield in France near the Belgian border. Mr Darlow's

grandson William, of Reading, Berkshire, paid £2,100 at auction — four times the guide price — to restore the medal to the family. It had disappeared after his grandfather's death in 1955, and its whereabouts were a mystery until last week, when it was sold anonymously in London.

Mr Darlow said: "I am proud of my grandfather and thought it important the medal was returned to our family. With the medal was a 1945

newspaper cutting describing how, after rescuing their badly-wounded commanding officer, Mr Darlow and a colleague returned under fire to the battlefield at Meteren.

Mr Darlow, who was 21 and serving with the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment, wrote: "Most of the officers and men were badly wounded. Lieutenant Montgomery was one of them and I recall placing him near my dying commanding officer."



Festival of lights: many people holding candles gathered for the lighting of the giant menorah in Union Square, San Francisco

Rekindling the light of sustaining faith

Jonathan Sacks

Today is the second day of Hanukkah, the Jewish "festival of lights". For eight nights we light the menorah — a candelabrum similar to that which once burnt in the Temple in Jerusalem — beginning with a single candle and each night adding an extra light. It is a simple, light-hearted festival, but beneath its surface is a complex story of history and hope.

Hanukkah commemorates events more than 2,000 years ago, after the conquests of Alexander the Great. Israel came under Greek rule, first by the Ptolemies, then the Seleucids. Initially the Greeks dabbled with their military prowess, art and philosophy. But the Seleucid rulers, with some Jewish sympathisers, started to force the pace of cultural assimilation. Funds were diverted from the Temple. A statue of Zeus was erected in Jerusalem. Jewish observance was increasingly frowned on. In 167 BC a set of repressive decrees was issued,

in effect forbidding the practice of Jewish ritual. This was more than many Jews could bear, and it led to rebellion. A handful of pietists, clustered around the family of the priest Matthias Hasmon and his son Judah the Maccabee, began the fight for liberty. Vastly outnumbered, they suffered heavy initial casualties, but within three years they had scored a momentous victory. Jerusalem was restored to Jewish hands. The Temple was rededicated. Hanukkah, which means "dedication", was established as a festival to perpetuate the memory of those days.

The significance of Hanukkah, however, was not immediately apparent. At first it seemed to represent a story of military courage. Jews had fought against overwhelming odds and regained their freedom and political independence. That is how

the story is related in the First Book of Maccabees. There was, however, another narrative, altogether different in tone. This told of

how when the Maccabees entered the Temple they found a single undefiled cruse of oil with which they were able to relight the Temple candelabrum. Miraculously, it burned for eight days instead of one, and it is this we recall when we light the menorah in our homes.

Some two centuries later the Jews of Israel faced another adversary: imperial Rome. This time, rebellion went disastrously wrong. The Temple was destroyed and Jerusalem laid waste. In the prevailing mood of despair there was a proposal to abolish Hanukkah. There seemed nothing left to celebrate.

It was then that the second story, of the cruse of oil, emerged as the

enduring religious symbol. It embodied the truth of which the prophet Zechariah spoke when he said: "Not by strength nor by might, but by my spirit, says the Lord."

Judaism could survive without power so long as it successfully rekindled the light of faith. Like the oil, the Jewish people would renew itself. Its light would not be extinguished. This faith sustained Jewry through some of the harshest trials faced by a people. It is why there are Jews today.

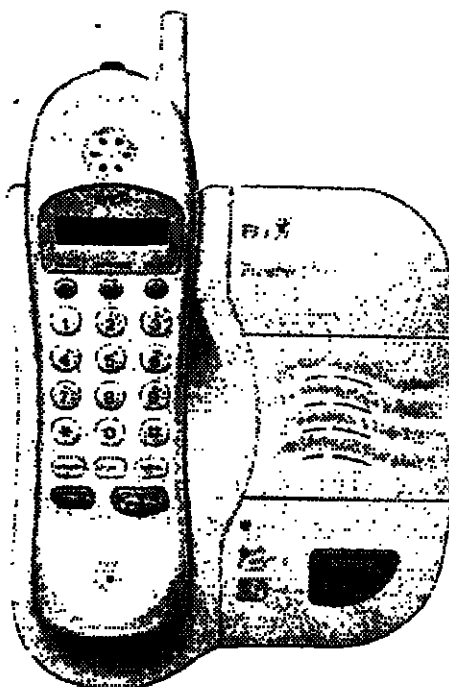
Hanukkah is less a tale of victory than a story of hope. The menorah stands for the strength, greater than ourselves, which at times of pain or persecution gives us the courage to continue. The Book of Proverbs calls the human spirit the "lamp of God". That is what we light on Hanukkah. The miracle is that in the intervening centuries it has never ceased to burn.

Dr Jonathan Sacks is Chief Rabbi

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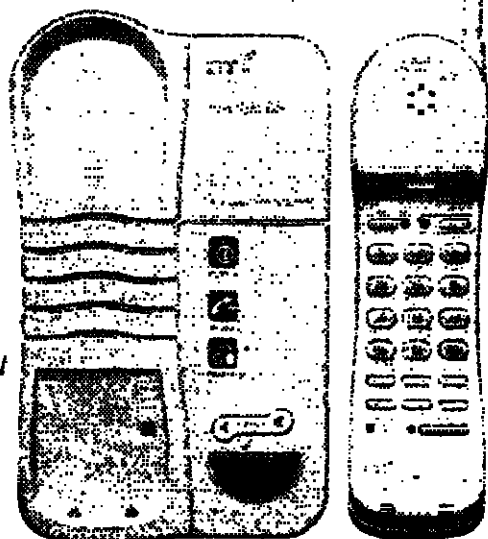
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Heritage status for Hiroshima dome angers Americans

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

HIROSHIMA'S atom-bomb dome has been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites, despite American objections.

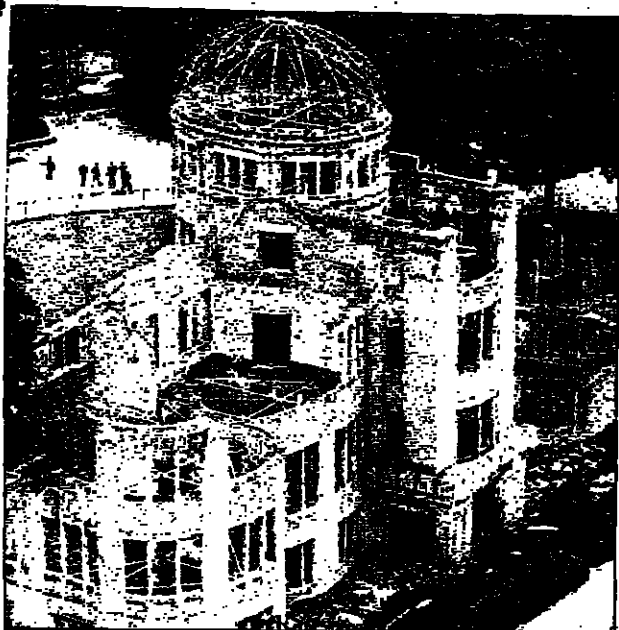
A 21-nation committee established under the 1972 World Heritage Convention included the controversial memorial among 37 new sites designated at its annual meeting in Merida, Mexico.

The new sites also include a 13th-century Cologne cathedral in Germany, a Gothic masterpiece damaged by Allied bombing during the war. The United States and Britain are no longer members of the Paris-based UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, which oversees

World Heritage sites, but they are among the 147 signatories of the convention under which the sites are chosen.

Washington complained about the selection of the ruined Genbaku Dome in Hiroshima, which lay directly beneath the epicentre of the first atomic bomb and dissociated itself from the decision.

"The United States is concerned about the lack of historical perspective in the nomination of the Genbaku Dome," a US statement said. "The events antecedent to the United States' use of atomic weapons to end the Second World War are the key to understanding the tragedy of Hiroshima."



The atom-bomb dome, which is now in a peace park

"Any examination of the period leading up to 1945 should be placed in the appropriate historical context," the statement said, adding that Washington considered the designation of war sites beyond the scope of UNESCO.

The dome, which now stands in the middle of a peace park in Hiroshima, was proposed by the Japanese Government. The only other Second World War site on the World Heritage list is the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz.

UNESCO officials said the Japanese memorial had been chosen as a "stark and powerful symbol of the achievement of world peace for more than half a century following the unleashing of the most destructive force ever created by mankind."

"The committee have been doing sites not just for what they are, but for what they stand for," said a UNESCO spokesman. "In the United States, for instance, the Statue of Liberty is there. It's not Michelangelo's David. It's what it stands for."

Although no new British locations were added this year, the United Kingdom has numerous World Heritage sites. They are the Giant's Causeway, Durham Castle and cathedral, the Ironbridge Gorge, Studley Royal Park, Stonehenge, the castles and town walls of King Edward in Gwynedd, St Kildare Island, Blenheim Palace, the city of Bath, Hadrian's Wall, Westminster Palace and Abbey, the Tower of London, Canterbury cathedral, and Edinburgh.

Pakistan poll law tests for honesty

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

MOST Pakistani candidates could be barred from the coming parliamentary polls under tough new election laws.

The Representation of People law decreed by President Farooq Leghari requires candidates to be sagacious, righteous, non-profligate, honest and taxpayers. There are few among the country's ex-presidents, generals or politicians who meet all the conditions. The elections are scheduled for February 3.

The law makes it compulsory for a candidate to declare family assets and income tax paid. Those who have not paid taxes, utility bills, or who have defaulted on loan repayments or had them written off, will be barred. False declarations will be punishable by five years' imprisonment.

Fakharuddin Ebrahim, the caretaker Law Minister, said a list of politicians who have defaulted on bank loans or had them written off would be supplied to the election commission.

The Government would also publish the candidates' declarations of assets. The minister said that those elected would have to declare their income and wealth every year to keep their seats.

Few of the politicians who have controlled Pakistan's political scene for the last five decades since the creation of the country have paid tax. President Leghari, one of the country's biggest landlords, does not pay any. A recent report revealed that many former MPs owed huge amounts to government-owned banks and financial institutions.



A mudslide sweeps through a construction site yesterday at the mountain village of Otari in Nagano, 125 miles north-west of Tokyo. Hundreds of police and firefighters sifted through tonnes of mud and snow searching for victims after two bodies were found.

Mudslide in Japan kills 14

and another 12 people were reported missing. All 14 are thought to have died shortly after they were buried under

65ft of mud and rocks along the Kamaharasawa river, a police spokesman said. An amateur video taken by one worker showed three surges of rocks and mud crashing through the valley and gushing through a concrete channel to the river below. (AP)

WORLD SUMMARY

Cult gas target 'to rival Iraq'

Tokyo: Shoko Asahara, leader of the doomsday Aum Shinrikyo cult and alleged mastermind of the nerve gas attack on the Tokyo underground, was possessed by an ambition to produce more nerve gas than Iraq, a former "disciple" told a court here yesterday (Robert Whyman writes).

Shigeo Sugimoto, the guru's chauffeur, said in evidence that Mr Asahara ordered him in July 1994 to take chemicals to the cult's headquarters where scientists belonging to the cult produced the gas sarin which was used in the attack in March last year.

Southern India hit by cyclone

Madhapatnam, India: Heavy rain and 50 mph winds lashed India's southeast coast yesterday as an erratic tropical storm finally stopped circling around the Bay of Bengal and hit land, forcing thousands to flee. The storm — which at one point had winds of 125mph — changed course again and struck at Sriharikota, where India's rockets and satellites are launched. (AP)

Child sex inquiry head to resign

Sydney: Chris Hunt, the head of an inquiry into alleged paedophile activity in Australia's diplomatic service, has been ordered to stand down on the ground of perceived bias (Roger Maynard writes). The Federal Court ordered the action after it upheld an appeal from an officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

False start for Olympic team

Johannesburg: Members of the International Olympic Committee's evaluation commission arrived in Cape Town to examine the city's bid to host the 2004 Olympics five hours late because a technical fault delayed the South African Airways jet from London (Ray Kennedy writes).

Ghana's voters set to deliver verdict on socialist who embraced IMF

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

GHANA'S flamboyant leader, Jerry Rawlings, takes his country to the polls today in a democratic test which will be as much a referendum on the World Bank's economic advice in Africa as a challenge to his 14 years of leadership. President Rawlings, who recently

gave up his air force rank of flight lieutenant, is expected to win the presidential race, but his party, the National Democratic Congress, is likely to perform poorly against a coalition of opposition parties in voting for the national assembly.

Analysts forecast that the alliance of the New Patriotic Party and the People's Convention Party will win between 70 and 80 seats in the 200-

member parliament, making it one of the strongest legal oppositions in Africa.

Whether the alliance can win more seats will depend on how voters judge Ghana's economy. Although Mr Rawlings was drawn to socialism when he took power in a military coup in 1982, he soon imposed a harsh austerity programme — often seen as a blueprint

for World Bank and International Monetary Fund economic restructuring plans for other Third World countries. He freed Ghana's economy, cut government subsidies to ailing industries, and promised to slash the public-sector payroll.

Fourteen years later the country has a 30 per cent rate of inflation, which Accra's independent Centre for Economic Policy Analysis pre-

dicts will increase to 70 per cent. Foreign investment, which has increased under Mr Rawlings, is still only half what it was in 1975. Ghanaians last voted in 1992.

"The price for inflation is likely only to be felt after the elections. Then a strong opposition in parliament may seriously frustrate Mr Rawlings," a Western ambassador in Accra said yesterday.

John Kufour, a lawyer from the Ashanti region, will challenge Mr Rawlings for the presidency. He is backed by the New Patriotic Party but his running-mate, Kow Arkaah, Mr Rawlings's former Vice-President, is more likely to capture the popular imagination, having accused the President of kneeling him in the groin on his last Cabinet appearance.

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Bankruptcy looms as tide of scandal breaks over Miami

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

VIEWED from its splendid oceanfront setting, it is hard to comprehend how bankruptcy hangs over Miami City Hall.

Luxury pleasure boats fill the marinas and the city's wealthiest visitors sun themselves by the pools of the big hotels. But Miami is not what it seems. In the aftermath of a sordid civic scandal that saw the city manager, Miami's top administrator, arrested on bribery and corruption charges, local officials have uncovered a financial mess. The city, which has an annual budget of about \$200 million (£122 million), is missing at least \$68 million, maybe more. It could face bankruptcy as early as March and its once strong bond rating has sunk to junk status.

On Tuesday Lawton Chiles, Governor of Florida, declared the city to be in a state of financial emergency. His action came after city council members refused to take unpopular measures to raise revenue and reduce spending.

A group of civic activists is calling for the city to be

abolished, allowing a takeover of its inefficiently run municipal services by the larger metropolitan authority of Dade County. Holiday operators fear that the scandal has put another dent in Miami's international image, already plagued by tourist murders and one of the worst crime rates in America, racial tensions and severe economic inequalities.

Instead of its glittering reputation for a five-star beach holiday, Miami looks more and more like a banana republic. What went wrong? Analysts point to a young city that got rich quick and outgrew its moral and financial ability to administer itself. City officials admit as much. "This is a classic story of what mismanagement and corruption will do to a city," said Joe Carollo, the city's Mayor, who was elected in July shortly before the crisis struck. "Before it is over, it will be a story that should be told to every municipal administrator so this will never happen again."

Bad as it is for the city's

image, tourism officials say that the crisis does not affect visitors to south Florida. Although the urban area of Miami has more than two million residents in two dozen small city districts, only 365,000 live within Miami's city limits.

Therein lies part of the problem. Despite a financial area of tall, flashy office buildings and a few wealthy waterfront districts, Miami is the fourth poorest city in the nation. A recent study found that 31.5 per cent of the city population is living in poverty.

The luxury blocks of flats on Miami Beach, full of affluent retired people, lie outside its city limits. Critics say that Miami is a city so obsessed with its glamorous tourist image abroad that it has ignored its inner-city reality. "No one has been asking, how are we going to pay these bills, how are we going to make this work," Robert Joffe, a Miami political consultant, said. "No one is thinking about the poor shacks who have to live here."

Clinton to tone down re-election festivities

BY TOM RHODES

PRESIDENT Clinton has developed a case of mild humility in planning for his second inauguration next month.

Instead of his triumphant arrival in 1993, Mr Clinton and his wife, Hillary, are expected to take an informal stroll down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House after he is sworn in as the first re-elected Democrat since Franklin Roosevelt.

The ceremonies, involving performances by Jesse Norman, Barbra Streisand and Miller Williams, the Arkansas poet and friend of the Clintons, will be modest compared with the \$33 million (£20.6 million) festival four years ago which embarrassed many Democrats.

Barry Triv, a White House official, said: "Mr Clinton is no longer a new President. He doesn't need an introduction, so to speak."

The event also coincides with Martin Luther King Day and the ceremony will reflect Mr Clinton's wish to portray himself as a President for both black and white America.

The inauguration will be reduced to three days including the traditional swearing-in on January 20, a date set in stone by the Constitution.

Mr Clinton has also been forced to swallow a certain amount of pride over his book, *Between Hope and History*, published in August. Little more than a compendium of the President's speeches, the volume appears to have been rather less popular with readers than he was with voters.

Publishers expect to have between 250,000 and 350,000 copies returned to them out of the 492,891 printed.



Chelsea Clinton during a dress rehearsal of the Washington Ballet's production of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* at George Mason University in Virginia

Colombian peasants killed by vigilantes

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

PARAMILITARY groups who are terrorising rural Colombia yesterday left the bullet-riddled bodies of at least 17 Andean peasants in ditches and fields around two villages in northern and central regions.

Locals in the northern coffee-growing village of To Viejo, in the department of Sucre, woke at dawn to find relatives or friends among the 17 badly beaten bodies, which had been left in pits near rubbish dumps. Some had their hands tied behind their backs and "communist" written in blood on their chests.

Meanwhile villagers in the central mining district of Boyaca found the bodies of six bullet-riddled campesinos or farmers, dumped in the fields around their homes with handwritten messages saying: "We will kill rebel sympathisers."

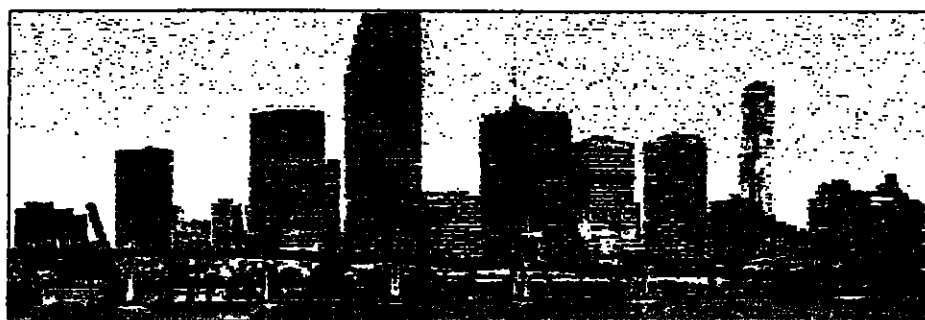
Police said the killings were the work of vigilante groups which have proliferated in the past few months in remote rural areas. "All the evidence we have shows that these massacres are the work of the paramilitary groups who operate in the region," said Enrique Ortega, commander of the police in Sucre. The police is the only force the public does not associate with human rights violations.

The paramilitaries, locally known as *grupos de auto-defensa*, or "self-defence squads", were first set up and armed by the military in 1991 to help in the fight against left-wing rebels of the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). A recent Human Rights Watch report said the military had received help from the CIA in setting up the paramilitary groups.

However, the vigilante groups, often made up of the former bodyguards of convicted drug-traffickers, are illegal. "They go around terrorising farming communities, accusing people of being left-wing rebels and performing public executions in village squares," said a Western diplomat in Bogota.

Dozens of rival vigilante groups have sprouted in several areas, and human rights groups say they are responsible for the deaths of at least 2,000 civilians. The groups are often funded by rich businessmen in the coffee and mining districts who want to "cleanse" their areas of guerrilla activity.

"Landowners and big businessmen want to eradicate support for the rebels that exists in the poorer villages, they just go around killing and taking the law into their own hands," said the Western diplomat.



Miami's glittering image hides reality riddled with poverty and crime

CIA chief vows to fight drugs and terrorism

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE last time Anthony Lake had a hand in covert surveillance his telephones were tapped after he resigned from Richard Nixon's Government in protest at the invasion of Cambodia.

Last night President Clinton's National Security Adviser was pondering his latest brush with American espionage as director-designate of the CIA, the sprawling and beleaguered headquarters of American intelligence which has become a political graveyard since the end of the Cold War. Mr Lake, 57, will become the fifth director in as many years, reflecting not merely the devastation to the agency by two highly placed moles but also its apparent inability to chart a suitable course since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The spy game has changed radically in recent years. The CIA station chief in Moscow now presents his credentials to the Russian intelligence service just as Russia's man in Washington identifies himself at Langley, the American centre.

Dead-drop mailboxes have long been retired along with invisible ink and poison-tipped canes. Most importantly, in the words of a former director, the Soviet dragon has been replaced by a nest of highly poisonous snakes in terrorism, nuclear proliferation, ethnic conflicts and drugs trafficking.

"I firmly believe that, in the post-Cold War world, the role of the CIA is more important than ever in defending Americans against the threats of terrorism and the proliferation

of weapons of mass destruction," Mr Lake said on accepting the new post, "and in giving the President the unvarnished facts on which he can base wise decisions in a time of change and promise."

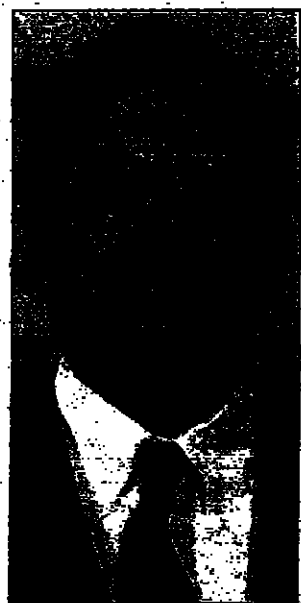
A product of the East Coast foreign policy elite who, after four years as National Security Adviser, can justifiably claim to know what the President wants in terms of intelligence, Mr Lake should be the director for whom the CIA has always yearned. Intent on collegiality in the national security team, he will certainly bring the intelligence community closer to its power base at the White House.

Although soft-spoken and professorial, he is seen by colleagues as a determined bureaucratic infighter who

has always avoided the limelight.

But Mr Lake enters a CIA reeling from the aftermath of Aldrich Ames, the most damaging mole to work at the agency, and the recent discovery of Harold Nicholson, the most senior employee, to be charged with spying for a foreign power. Allegations of dirty tricks in Guatemala and claims among America's blacks that the CIA allowed Nicaraguan crack dealers to target poor areas in Los Angeles to ensure funds for the Contra movement, have only made matters worse.

Although relations between the CIA and the Pentagon improved under John Deutch, the current director, his outspokenness and over-arching ambition sealed his swift departure.



Lake: soft-spoken but determined infighter

Primrose Hill girl sees Great Wall of China

from bedroom

Microsoft® Encarta® 97 World Atlas. See The Times Magazine page 174.

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West Bank disputes delay plan for summit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

URGENT efforts to arrange a meeting between Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the head of the Palestinian Authority, to complete a deal on pulling Israeli forces out of Hebron ran into new problems last night.

Both leaders had separately expressed a willingness to meet, and negotiators from the Palestine Liberation Organisation had forecast that a three-way meeting involving the PLO, Israel and Egypt could take place in Cairo as early as tonight, under the chairmanship of President Mubarak.

Senior American officials are convinced that face-to-face talks between the two men, who last met at the emergency Washington summit in September, are needed to overcome the final obstacles preventing the long-delayed deal to pull Israeli forces out of 80 per cent of Hebron, where 450 Jews live amid 120,000 Palestinians.

Dennis Ross, the American special envoy to the Middle East who has been in charge of efforts to broker a Hebron accord, told reporters in Washington that final arrangements for a summit had not yet been completed. "The important thing is that they are talking about having a meeting," he said.

Yesterday Mr Netanyahu told his right-wing Cabinet: "The negotiations on the issue of Hebron have been exhausted and it is possible to conclude the problems that are left by a meeting at the political level as long as the

other side does not at the last moment raise new obstacles. The true question is whether the Palestinian side is interested in reaching a conclusion."

With tensions in Hebron running high as thousands of Israelis make plans to travel there to join Jewish settlers on Tuesday to mark the festival of Hanukkah, the PLO denounced the Israeli Government's suggestion that the deal was "almost" done and that the Palestinians were stalling.

"That 'almost' had hidden within it several important, cardinal points which are still not agreed upon," Ahmed Tibi, the senior adviser to Mr Arafat, told Israeli radio.

"There is a signed agreement and the entire world knows that Yasser Arafat will never change the agreement."

Another adviser to the Palestinian leader, Nabil Abu Rdainah, said: "President Arafat is ready to meet Prime Minister Netanyahu, but no time or date has been set."

After eight weeks of diplomatic haggling marked by repeated Israeli predictions of an imminent breakthrough, PLO officials said last night that outstanding issues included argument over Israel's claim of rights of "hot pursuit" into the Palestinian controlled sector of the holy city and the type of weapons to be carried by the Palestinian police.

Israel's extreme Right has been outraged by Mr Netanyahu's stated intention to honour the principle of the Hebron deal negotiated in 1995 by Yitzhak Rabin, his Labour predecessor.



Tourists in a Californian redwood grove. "Salvage" logging removes dead timber

Green foot-soldiers fight for giants of the forest

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN CARLOTTA, CALIFORNIA

SWINGING on the end of a climbing rope above the Golden Gate Bridge, the actor Woody Harrelson joined a posse of environmentalists last week in a bitter struggle to halt the destruction of some of the planet's tallest trees. Back on the ground after causing a four-hour traffic jam, he was promptly arrested.

It was the latest skirmish in a battle dividing much of California, with its front line 300 miles north of San Francisco in a camp of nature-lovers with names like Jay Bird and Laughing Coyote. Their mission is to save the world's last unprotected ancient redwoods from the chainsaw.

The campsite beside Grizzly Creek in Humboldt County is where the muddy foot-soldiers of Earth First gather each morning with mugs of muesli to plot the next phase of their duel with the Pacific Lumber Company. Towering Douglas fir trees dwarf the tents, but the redwoods over which the region is now feuding openly are another two hours into the backcountry by dirt road and trespassers' footpath. Here, from a carpet of ferns and wild

mushrooms, trees that were alive when Hannibal crossed the Alps over 2000 years ago grow taller than Big Ben. These are the only uncut redwoods left outside California's park system, which protects barely 4 per cent of the giant trees that once covered the coastal ranges. For all but the oldest of them, the sawmill beckons.

Two of six pristine redwood groves in Pacific Lumber's Headwaters Forest were saved recently by a controversial pact between the Government and the company's owner, the Texan financier Charles Hurwitz. But in and around the other four groves timber is being cut.

Details of the pact released yesterday show that Mr Hurwitz has been offered prime Californian property and 10,000 acres of less precious forest, worth \$300 million (£187.5 million) in all, in return for leaving 3,500 acres at Headwaters uncut.

Tracks have been cut into three of the unprotected groves for so-called "salvage logging", which removes only dead and dying timber. In the process it tears out the forest's

fragile life-support system, biologists say, and destroys the habitat of endangered species.

Grimly surveying the damage, "Goat", a guide from the Earth First camp, described dodging security guards on night runs to supply fellow protesters as they staged a two-week "tree sit" in a vain attempt to save this slope. "If we can't get people to care about the redwoods, we're lost," Goat said. Blockades have become routine in the Greens' showdown with loggers and the police. So has a degree of paranoia. "Loose lips sink ships", a sign at the camp says, adding that the payphone is bugged and details of forthcoming raids should be passed on "on a need-to-know basis only". More than 1,200 protesters have been arrested since September.

Mr Hurwitz has declined all interview requests, but did talk this year to a rabbi. Concerned by the rabbi's warning that grave sin was possible even within the letter of the law, Mr Hurwitz replied that sparing the redwoods, which fetch up to \$200,000 each, was "not good business".

US to rate TV shows for sex and violence

FROM BRONWEN MADDQIN WASHINGTON

SEX and violence ratings will be slapped on American television programmes from next month to warn parents that the content may be unsuitable for children, according to plans hammered out by the television industry after months of tense talks.

The ratings, which will broadly follow the system used to classify new films, specify the appropriate age group of viewers.

However, there will be no sign of whether a programme earned its rating for sex, violence or bad language. Critics such as the American

Medical Association say that the system will not give parents enough information. They accuse the television industry of being afraid to label a programme as violent for fear that ratings will fall.

The move follows a new telecommunications law which will force television manufacturers to install programme-blocking devices known as "V-chips" in new sets to enable parents to screen out programmes with undesirable content.

The ratings will apply to all broadcast and cable television, except sport and news.

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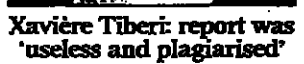
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FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

Xavière Tiberi: report was 'useless and plagiarised'

As the legal noose tightened around Mme Tiberi, with magistrates starting a full-scale investigation into alleged misuse of public funds, her husband is also under investigation for allegedly ordering the refurbishment of a city-owned flat for his son, Dominique, at a cost to taxpayers of more than Fr1.5 million.



FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

Singapore Airlines said the turbulence occurred so suddenly that the pilot did not have a chance to warn passengers. Clear air turbulence is not detectable on radar and is a comparatively rare phenomenon.

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

However, in an open letter before it began its legal action, the Gender Centre said: "We call on all of you who disagree with the image of a masturbat-



Stark, Florida: John Mills, 41, was executed in the electric chair here for abducting a 30-year-old man from a mobile home, driving him to an abandoned airstrip and hitting him with a tyre lever before shooting him twice in the face with a shotgun. He then stole from the home. An accomplice, Michael Frederick, was sentenced to 347 years in prison. (AP)

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THE TIMES

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The Times October 5 1996

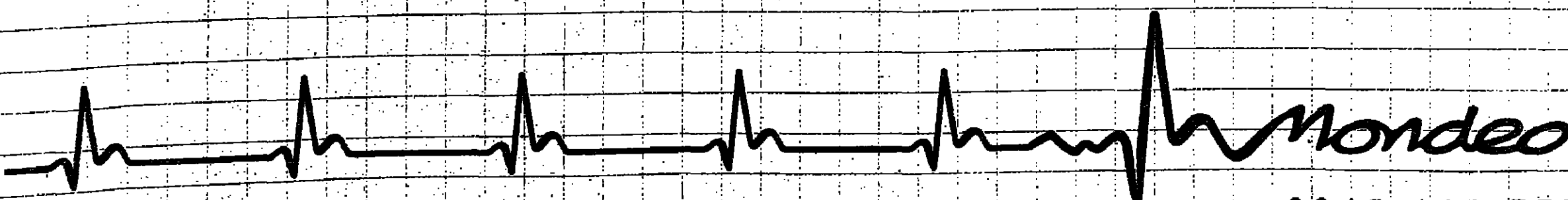
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Sinister deeds of Kohl's dare-devil spymaster are threatening to tarnish Chancellor's image

008's days numbered

BERLIN FILE

by ROGER BOYES



THE real strength of Helmut Kohl is vested in his entourage, loyal Stakhanovites who rarely see their wives and who spend their waking hours being driven and teased by the Chancellor.

Men like Fritz Bohl, the chancellery chief, and Joachim Bitterlich, the foreign policy adviser, pose as self-effacing civil servants, but they in fact run Germany by mastering the detail that the Chancellor forgets or neglects.

The weak link in this team is the dapper, former grammar school headmaster Bernd Schmidbauer, who has been dubbed Agent 008. He is the Chancellor's adviser on security affairs and the closest that Germany has to a dare-devil politician. Herr Schmidbauer negotiates exchanges of prisoners and corpses between Israel and Iran, wades through South American jungles with anti-drug squads, disappears for days in the Middle East. Now he is in hot water rather than hot climes.

This week he has faced a parliamentary grilling about a shadowy freelance spy, Werner Mauss, who was recently arrested in Colombia. Herr Mauss is a private detective

group, the ELN, to secure the release of the wife of a kidnapped German executive. The Colombian authorities have accused Herr Mauss of playing a double game and of being in league with the Marxist guerrillas. That means trouble for Herr Schmidbauer who admits to having met Herr Mauss six times and to helping to arrange false passports for the agent.

Sooner rather than later the Chancellor probably will have to drop his security chief. He has survived other scandals, personal and political. His impassioned wife once strode into Herr Schmidbauer's favourite Italian restaurant and had a stand-up row with the sleekly groomed, chain-smoking spymaster. Herr Schmidbauer had made his mistress pregnant and his wife was not amused.

The trial of an alleged Iranian hit team, now coming to a climax in Berlin, has also revealed unsavoury aspects of Herr Schmidbauer's dealings with the Tehran regime. It was Herr Schmidbauer who proudly showed Ali Fallahian, the Iranian Police Minister, around the headquarters of the German espionage and counter-espionage services. During the Berlin trial it emerged that Mr Fallahian had ordered assassinations in the German capital.

As in the case of Herr Mauss's Colombian muddle, there is usually a humanitarian argument to be put. Herr Schmidbauer has always been given the benefit of the doubt by Herr Kohl, but this direct line between Herr Kohl and rather sinister acts of derring-do around the world

who has carried out several missions for the Government. The latest was as a negotiator with a Colombian guerrilla

is proving an embarrassment. Herr Kohl increasingly sees himself as the History Man and adventures by his senior staff detract from, rather than add to, the glory.

The critical problem is that there is no solid legal underpinning to these antics. Herr Schmidbauer and his staff of 25 are supposed only to co-ordinate and oversee the activities of the espionage service (BND), the domestic counter-espionage organisation and military counter-espionage.

The Chancellor is no great admirer of covert intelligence — a quality he shares with his predecessor Helmut Schmidt, who said he discovered more by reading a British newspaper — and Herr Schmidbauer in turn has shown little respect for previous service chiefs. Nowadays the BND, regarded for years as an accident-prone Keystone Cops operation, is managed by a safe pair of hands, Hans-Joerg Geiger. It is moving from Cold War business to counter-



Bernd Schmidbauer with Helmut Kohl at a European soccer match at Old Trafford featuring Italy and Germany

terrorism, combating organised crime and the drugs trade. That gives Herr Schmidbauer even less to do, hence his taste for initiating his own missions.

The essential dilemma is that while every leader needs freedom and trust, staff ready to do dirty deeds, these people should not draw attention to themselves. The miracle of a freed hostage should be attributed without qualification to the Chancellor; the failures forgotten fast.

But Germans have been reluctant even to admit that Berlin was her home town as well as the place where she is buried.

She left Germany in the 1930s, despised the Nazis, gave financial help to some Jewish émigrés in the United States, performed for American troops and, after the war, entered bruised and battered Berlin wearing a US uniform.

That last act has not been forgotten quickly. Hundreds of protest letters have been flooding into the Social-Democratic offices to oppose the creation of a Marlene Dietrich Strasse. Her gravestone has been smeared with Nazi graffiti.

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No star treatment for Angel

MARLENE DISTRICT, the legendary film vamp, is at the heart of a new Berlin row.

The Social-Democratic council in Schoenberg district thinks it is time to honour the heroine of *The Blue Angel*. She earned the Medal of Freedom from the Americans and another going from the French Foreign Legion — probably for her part in Morocco when she felled a millionaire to have an affair with a penniless Legionnaire played by Gary Cooper.

But Germans have been reluctant even to admit that Berlin was her home town as well as the place where she is buried.

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Trappings of office

THE Reichstag is a mess. After being wrapped and unwrapped by package artist Christo, the once and future parliament is now swaddled in scaffolding as Germany struggles to keep to its deadlines. Both the German parliament and the Chancellor have promised to be in residence by the end of 1999, but Helmut Kohl's dream of making Berlin the fully-fledged political capital by the new millennium is fading.

The scramble is already on for the best offices in and around parliament. But the most intriguing problem is the wallpaper. Should the corridors of power be plastered with the new bug-proof covering designed by Siemens? The wallpaper, called *Shieldex*, is copper-encased nylon and the main customers are likely to be hospitals trying to block electromagnetic interference with their machinery. Both houses of parliament have ordered *Shieldex* but the chancellery is wondering whether it can afford electronic decor.

Charities want brothel ban reviewed

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

LEADING Catholic charities in Italy yesterday called for a 40-year-old law banning brothels to be reviewed as part of an attempt to solve the growing problem of prostitution, which they have described as a form of 20th-century slavery.

The groups, which include immigrant charities run by the Italian Bishops' Conference and Caritas, the aid agency, said that the 1958 "Merlin law" — named after Angela Merlin, the Socialist anti-prostitution campaigner — should be looked at again. The law banned legal brothels

or "closed houses", but had the effect of driving prostitutes on to the streets, where their numbers have been swelled recently by illegal immigrants from Albania and Africa.

But the groups said there were solutions short of the re-establishment of brothels, including cracking down on pimping by confiscating their illegal earnings and offering financial help to prostitutes who wanted to "come off the streets".

The Catholic agencies joined other political and social groups in deploring a decision this week by Milan

city council to drive prostitutes off the streets by sending photographs of clients' cars to their homes. Opposition councillors said the scheme would wreck marriages, and local police argued that it was unworkable.

The plan, put forward by Riccardo De Corato, leader of the post-fascist *Alleanza Nazionale* in Milan, was approved by 16 votes to ten, with six abstentions.

Left-wing councillors said the plan was a "violation of privacy, honour and reputation". *Corriere della Sera*, which is based in Milan, said

many residents of the city were at their wits' end. Prostitutes and transvestites were "performing stripteases in the street", and customers were lining up in their cars.

La Stampa said the Milan move was a reflection of the fact that Italian cities are now so saturated with prostitutes that the authorities were willing to try anything. But it said the morality of the Milan city council was at odds with the centuries-old morality of the Catholic Church, which held that the sinner alone should be made to suffer for his misdeeds.

Di Pietro is target of police raids

FROM REUTERS IN ROME

POLICE yesterday raided the homes and offices of Antonio Di Pietro, a former minister made famous by his judicial assault on corruption, known as the "Clean hands" investigation.

The Italian media reported that some 300 agents were involved in the raids, ordered by magistrates in the northern town of Brescia who are investigating alleged irregularities by Signor Di Pietro when he was a leading anti-corruption magistrate.

His lawyer, Massimo D'Inoia, said that agents had seized legal documents from his home in the town of Curno, near Milan. The lawyer said Signor Di Pietro, who returned to Milan from Rome yesterday morning, was not present, but added that his wife and two young children had been awakened by police.

Some 50 raids were carried out by special investigators. Signor Di Pietro's business associates and lawyers were also targeted.

Anglicans and Catholics reach 'impasse over Eve'

BY RICHARD OWEN

ANGLICAN officials insisted yesterday that Anglican-Catholic dialogue was "very much alive" despite deep differences over women priests during talks between the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury this week.

"The visit was marked by great personal warmth," said Canon Bruce Ruddock, head of the Anglican Centre in Rome. "We are going to review the stage we have reached, but are determined to continue."

But veteran Vatican watchers said they saw "no common ground whatsoever" over the ordination of women, and not much more on other issues such as papal primacy, papal infallibility and Marian doctrine (policy over the Virgin Mary).

"Eve has divided Anglican and Catholics," said Marco Politi, the Vatican correspondent of *La Repubblica* and author of a recent book on the Pope. "The atmosphere was fraternal and cordial, and the pontiff even asked the Archbishop to stay on for lunch on



Dr Carey: visit marked "by great warmth"

Thursday. But even Dr Carey admitted there had been no concrete results.

Yesterday, Dr Carey ended his four-day trip to Italy in Milan, where he attended vespers with Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, who is a strong future candidate for the papacy and whose views on married priests and the role of women in the Church are more liberal than the Pope's.

Celebrating vespers marking the 1,600th anniversary of

the death of St Ambrose, the patron saint of Milan, Dr Carey noted that next year Britain would celebrate the 1,400th anniversary of the death of St Columba and the arrival in Britain of St Augustine, "the first Archbishop of Canterbury".

But Vatican officials said the 30-year-old Anglican-Catholic dialogue had reached an "impasse" over the ordination of women priests. Before the Archbishop left Rome for Milan, the Pope said the "obstacle" of women's ordination underscored the need for agreement on who would have ultimate doctrinal teaching authority in an eventually unified church.

This week he reminded Dr Carey that as Pope, he held the "teaching office" of Saint Peter, and added: "The path ahead may not be altogether clear to us, but we are here to recommit ourselves to following it". But the pontiff added that even if papal primacy was "modified", he could not accept a symbolic papacy lacking doctrinal authority.

Leading article, page 21

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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OPINION

Hasn't Sir Denis Mahon played his huffing and puffing scene once too often?



THEATRE

Staging *Troilus and Cressida* for laughs makes for a long and fussy evening at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS



GOING OUT

Alec McCowen in Chekhov, and the weekend's other top shows, surveyed in The Directory



ON MONDAY

Plácido Domingo sings Wagner for the first time in Britain: read Rodney Milnes's verdict

Crisis in the fine art world: Panic in Whitehall! Proud museum directors falling around like obsequious butlers. The Heritage Secretary firing off desperate letters to all available organs. The art establishment expressing itself *afraid*, daring, at the prospect of £25 million of prime-cut paintings slipping from its grasp.

Yes, the Old Master of the cultural whinge has spoken. Step forward, Sir Denis Mahon. The 86-year-old art historian and very rich bachelor announced this week that his collection of 61 Italian Baroque paintings — at present destined for top British galleries when he dies — will be removed if those galleries start to sell off their collections or charge for admissions. Even by Mahon's standards this was a virtuoso display of cat among-pigeons-putting, and the kneejerk reaction to his threat must have made the old boy feel very important.

Which, of course, is utterly bizarre. Don't get me wrong, I am

You don't get the picture, Minister

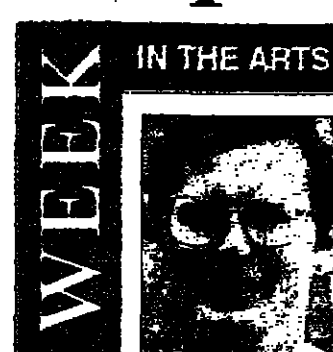
not against being nice to pensioners, though the heir to the vast Guinness Mahon banking fortune is hardly a pensioner in the usual sense of the word. Nor do I belittle the quality of Mahon's collection. It's just that he has pulled this stunt so many times before. And glibble politicians fall for it every time! Those wretched Guerinios, Renis and Cortonas must have exercised more influence on government policy than many Cabinet ministers. Let's recall some epic Mahon tantrums of the past quarter-century:

November 1973: Mahon threatens to leave his paintings to Ireland if museum charges are introduced in Britain. In a letter to *The Times*, he accuses the Heath Government of "shabby devices".

August 1974: "I'll sell my art treasures abroad," Mahon tells the

Evening Standard. More wrath about museum charges? Er, no. Mahon has been very hurt, poor lamb, by the Wilson Government's proposed wealth tax. "I had intended to bequeath the collection, my life's love, to the public," he sniffs. "But if the Government are going to start bullying and victimising me, then by golly I'll sell it abroad first." Stirring words. May 1977: "Britain is in danger of losing Denis Mahon's collection," the *Sunday Telegraph* warns readers. This time it seems to be because of "the Government's attitude over the sale of art treasures from Menmore Towers".

November 1977: Obviously 1977 is Mahon's Year of Living Indignantly. Now he is angry about the Treasury meddling with the National Land Fund — a relief agency for aristocrats with stately homes. Remarkably, Mahon does not



RICHARD MORRISON

threaten to take his paintings abroad this time. Perhaps his earlier threat is still pending.

February 1979: Guess what's hot news? "Britain will lose one of the world's finest collections of Italian

paintings if the Government abolishes the system whereby works of art can be offered in lieu of taxes," the *Telegraph* reports. It's Douglas Den again! "I had intended the collection should go to the nation," he says. "But with these new proposals I shall have to instruct my executors to sell the pictures abroad." Luckily, a general election averts this catastrophe.

July 1985: A familiar headline in *The Times*: "Art collector's threat to sell pictures abroad forces tax change." Another victory for Guerinio power! The paper reports that Mahon's "game of brinkmanship" has resulted in "virtually open-ended tax concessions" for people with lots of Old Masters. The arts world, or at least the posh end of it, is ecstatic. So is Sir David Piper, the Ashmolean Museum's director. "Mr Mahon has the most gorgeous stamina,"

he gushes girlishly in *The Times*. June 1986: Arise, Sir Denis! But if the Government hopes that a knighthood will induce Mahon to settle the fate of his collection, it is sadly mistaken.

March 1988: Mahon is "again contemplating changing his will". *The Times* notes wearily, because of "plans to introduce de-accession" in national galleries. Two months later, all is smiles. Mahon has discovered an Arts Minister, Richard Luce, who is "approachable and listens to arguments".

February 1992: One of Mahon's finest hours. He threatens to withdraw the offer of a loaned Guerinio to the National Gallery unless the Government indemnifies owners of paintings lent to the nation. The new Arts Minister, Tim Renton, obligingly alters a

Bill that is already going through Parliament. Mahon attends a Commons select committee to savour his triumph.

And so to this week's events. Out has come the trump-card again — and Mahon once more has Her Majesty's Government begging for mercy. Part of me hopes that Mrs Bottomley will tell Mahon exactly where he can stick his precious Guerinios. After all, it is mad that the mere ownership of a tasty art collection should apparently give somebody the clout to change government policy eight times in 25 years.

But the other part of me wishes this wily old bird several more decades of rude health and even ruder interference in the governance of Britain. After all, he has proved one thing: politicians cannot be as philistine as we thought. Not if five Prime Ministers in succession turn cartwheels to get their hands on a load of paintings by artists of whom they have barely heard.



"A pointless exercise were it not for a cluster of admirable performances": Joseph Fiennes as Troilus and Philip Voss as Ulysses in Ian Judge's production of *Troilus and Cressida*

Funny? You must be joking

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on an over-fussy production of Shakespeare's Trojan tragedy

Who said this? *Troilus and Cressida* is remarkable for being so utterly original — startling, deeply shocking and very, very funny. Ian Judge, that's who, director of this Royal Shakespeare Company production in his opening rehearsal talk which is reprinted in the programme. Not just funny, you will notice, not even very funny but very very funny, although he does stop short of calling it sidesplitting, or substituting it, with a nod to the bisexual Pandarus, *Cressida's Aunt*.

Judge is noted for liking to make an audience emerge from the theatre feeling good. And I have been made to feel that way myself after, for example, his stagings of *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Comedy of Errors*, both of them at this theatre.

On the other hand, watching his recent *Scrooge* was like drowning in jam. And his current production of Shakespeare's very, very funny (sic) sick joke would be an entirely pointless exercise were it not for a cluster of admirable performances, although these are not always where one wants them.

As designed by John Gunter, Troy's wall is a mighty image of panted protection, brickwork mended with sheets of corrugated iron that lend their suggestion of fluted column to the structure. Over the Greek camp hangs a great golden shield that turns blood-red when the battle rages, like an unhealthy sun.

Helpful images, all of them, unlike the scene in the tent where Richard Dillane's hunky Diomedes woos Cressida. From the top of the stage an immense cyclamen curtain sweeps down in the sort of curve beloved of Cecil Beaton in romantic mood. All very ironic, perhaps, but the situation itself, with its three on-lookers making their sour or weeping comments, establishes this point with more economy.

Economy is not a word Judge appears to consider when imagining a scene. His actors move restlessly around one another, going down steps in order to turn about and step up them again. There is certainly a lot of talk in the play — more than usual in a version that seems to have cut nothing — and we certainly need something to keep our minds alert. But perhaps he could have concentrated on the language?

The quality of performance varies. Victoria Hamilton eloquently traces Cressida's journey from being a girl capable of genuine feeling to one who, betrayed by her city, is no longer certain of what she feels — except, that is, her own uncertainty.

Her closing cry of "Troilus!" is an expression of true grief. Unlike the voice of Joseph Fiennes as Troilus, which breaks and gulps and catches breath, corkscrewing this way and that, until the sense of a speech flies off in all directions.

Clive Francis giggles a lot as a superficial Pandarus. The muscular young Greasians, as they are pronounced, have stepped from the pages of an old *Physique Pictorial* but speak with clarity. Philip Voss's magisterial Ulysses is particularly so.

On the opposing side Louis Hilyer's Hector stands out well. But the evening as a whole is long — and very, very fussy.

No fear of music

POP
The Heads
Hanover Grand, WI

THE name Talking Heads has always been synonymous with their eccentric front man David Byrne, even though their actual sounds relied on the rhythms of bassist Tina Weymouth, drummer Chris Frantz and keyboard player Jerry Harrison.

Renaming themselves the Heads, Weymouth, Frantz and Harrison recently recorded an album, which they tellingly called *No Talking Just Head*, and got round the lead singer problem by recruiting a bunch of guest vocalists, including Sharon Ryder, Debbie Harry, Michael Hutchence, Richard Hell and Johnette Napolitano, to write lyrics for finished backing tracks. Shaun Ryder's *Don't Take My Kindness for Weakness*, a recent single, was particularly inspired, and the results convinced the Heads to start playing live again.

To do so, they have added extra guitarist Blast Murray and upgraded Concrete Blonde's Napolitano from guest vocalist to lead singer. She has a distinctive voice that frequently rose into a Courtney Love-style holler but she tempered it to suit the style of the various missing guests. "Gordon [Gano of the Violent Femmes] can't be with us tonight, so I'll just do my best Gordon for you," she joked

before singing the melodic *Only The Lonely*.

Gano was not the only guest who could not make it: neither Ryder nor Hutchence put in an appearance. Luckily, Napolitano managed to keep the crowd entertained — her androgynous figure proving a godsend when it came to dancing around Byrne-style during the Talking Heads song *Take Me To The River*.

Of all the band, it was Weymouth who most looked as if she was revelling in her newfound freedom, playing off Napolitano and clearly enjoying singing with another woman on the album's title track, *Punk Lolita*. They even finished off with *Psycho Killer* and did a couple of encores which paid tribute to their various solo careers, most notably Tom Tom Club's *Wordy Rappinghood*.

Although this was more of a celebration of the Heads' past than a take on their future, it was enough to give the crowd what they had come for.

ANN SCANLON

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The Georgian rules of our most venerable artistic institution make it too amateurish for the big league, says Richard Morrison

Royal Academicians in distress

The financial crisis that blew up in the faces of the Royal Academy's membership yesterday was sudden but gruesomely predictable. The allegations of financial irregularities, of "borrowing" from the pension fund, of mysterious gaps in the annual accounts, are worrying enough. This is a 228-year-old institution with a list of benefactors headed by the Queen, where some of Britain's most eminent painters, sculptors and architects are the members, and where the honorary fellows include just about every famous cultural figure in the land.

But even if the accusations prove to be temporary blemishes that are already being erased — as the RA was claiming yesterday — there are other huge problems inherent in the very structure of the venerable institution in Piccadilly. As with the British Museum, which was recently revealed to have not a single qualified accountant among its staff of nearly 1,200, the RA gives the impression of being governed

by a group of well-intentioned but elderly and unworried people who have never learnt about survival in the current cut-throat arts world. It is effectively now two institutions in one. First, it is a grandly appointed club for artists, deeply conscious of an illustrious tradition stretching back to Sir Joshua Reynolds; and secondly it is a venue for international shows. The academy's historic mission to maintain artistic standards and lead public taste has long been undermined by the annual, depressing reality of the mediocre paintings usually produced for the now notorious (but still money-spinning) Summer Exhibition.

In the past two decades, however, under the often inspired leadership of its exhibitions secretary, Norman Rosenthal, the RA has made

huge efforts to compete in the "blockbuster" field. When these succeeded, as with the ground-breaking *Genius of Venice* exhibition or the always-popular shows of Impressionists, they won critical acclaim, generous sponsorship and huge crowds. Financed entirely by private means, for the RA receives no public funds, these shows achieved what the lavishly subsidised British galleries often could not: they brought the RA into a "magic circle" of top international galleries, which were willing to share the cost, as well as enjoying the prestige of mounting crowd-pulling displays. Rosenthal, who is married to a senior figure at the Prado Museum in Madrid, was the ideal man to oversee this high-profile, high-risk operation.

But when they failed, commercially if not artistically, such shows left ominous holes in the RA's finances. An exhibition of 20th-century American art ran to a £600,000 deficit. Half a million people were expected for last year's gigantic Africa exhibition: only half that number turned up. Given that this single show cost £1.5 million to mount, one can quickly see how a £3 million deficit could build up. These big international exhibitions also depend on equally big sponsors, especially when the host organisation has no public subsidy. But in Britain corporate arts sponsorship, on which so many hopes were pinned in the early 1980s, has declined alarmingly. And in London — with its two opera houses, nine or ten great museums and four symphony orchestras — the

competition for big-company sponsorship is hot. At one time the RA seemed to be doing well. But a recent spate of shows "failing to happen", combined with the generally disappointing impression left by the exhibitions that did, suggests that it has now fallen behind in the dash for cash. And as Britain's major arts institutions tussle for the £1 billion or so of "matching" private funding that the Government requires to make their lottery projects viable, the pressure to find donors becomes ever greater.

So where does the Academy go from here? The answer is surely that it must decide what its function is to be in the 21st century, and then cut its cloth, or possibly its staff, accordingly. As with many of Britain's big cultural organisations, the past two decades of the RA have been expansionist in spirit. Not only have there been ambitious exhibitions and building projects (the Sackler Galleries and the plan for the RA to take over the nearby Museum of Mankind), but also such unsung but laudable programmes as the "Outreach" project to encourage good teaching of the visual arts in schools. If it is to continue down this road, the Academy must put in place a management that is utterly professional from top to toe. (Again, the parallel with the British Museum is uncanny.) That may mean the end of a governing body whose rules are still essentially those laid down by George III. Most of the executives now in day-to-day control of the RA — led by the new secretary, David Gor-

Is literary London really so full of spite? Derwent May doubts it

Confessions of a reviewer

One day in March a few years ago, when I was literary editor of *The Listener* and preparing my first special books number of the year, I went up to Oxford. On a back wall of All Souls I saw a big painted slogan: "No to Spring Books". I soon realised that it was in fact an anti-apartheid slogan. "No to Spring-books", but it was a nasty moment. However, the slogan I thought I saw might well have been daubed there by Amanda Craig, who has written a novel, *A Vicious Circle*, which has this week been hailed as a work of genius by A.N. Wilson, the novelist and literary editor of the *Evening Standard*. It consists mainly of a ferocious attack on the world of book reviewers.

Two of its main characters are young literary journalists, who are supposed to be representative figures, and who recognise in themselves and others only two motives — the currying of favour and the instilling of fear. A third character is a waitress who teaches herself to become a vicious reviewer out of revenge when she is ditched by a literary journalist, and is so carried away that her review destroys a novel by her best friend. Any concern for truth and justice is utterly invisible in this portrait of the literary world. In fact, one reviewer, David Sexton, thought he had been caricatured in the novel and objected, and Miss Craig was compelled to rewrite part of the book and to change publishers.

Miss Craig's picture does not show the literary world as I know it. When R.H.S. Crossman was Editor of the *New Statesman* and wanted a trivial book reviewed for his own political purposes, I remember his literary editor resisting until Crossman cried out in exasperation: "The trouble with you literary editors is that you're all virgins!" Arthur Crook, when he edited *The Times Literary Supplement* in the days of anonymous reviewing, used to make sure he knew all about the love affairs and rivalries of his contributors, in order to keep spite and log-rolling out of his pages. "I went to publishers' parties just to find out who hated each other," he told me. (Of course, it made quite an enjoyable life for him.)

Rather different matters worry literary editors, such as finding people who can write a genuinely good novel review. That is not as easy as Miss Craig makes it sound. Novel reviews generally have to be done in a very restricted number of words. You have to tell the reader some of the plot, or your comments hang in mid-air. But once you tell

the plot, you have no space left for anything else. So somehow you have to weave your judgments into your précis of the story. It is worse than writing a haiku — it is like writing a bonzai haiku.

There are also unexpected problems. I once failed to persuade Hugh Trevor-Roper to review any of a large number of history books, because at the time, he said, he could not "read anything except the most beautiful prose". Very reasonable, I thought; but I had to find another good reviewer.

Of course, there is a lot of fierce reviewing in newspapers, but that is not in itself in any way discreditable. David Sexton himself would not deny that he is a fierce reviewer, but his criticisms proceed from a clear set of values: a love of the subtle and truthful, a hatred of pretension and sentimentality. He need not even have protested, in my view, because his writing speaks for itself. Some of the best reviewing is found when two whole schools of taste come into conflict, with figures such as Alexander Pope or F.R. Leavis hovering above like Baroque gods of the battlefield.

Prospective authors should not be daunted by Miss Craig's vision of the world into which their books will be launched. London offers an incomparably wide range of commentary on new books. A notable book may receive 11 thoughtful reviews over one long weekend, in the five daily broadsheets, the four Sunday broadsheets, the *Speculator* — and, yes, the *Evening Standard*, although Andrew Wilson's ecstatic review of Miss Craig's novel suggests he has strange doubts about his own books pages. Then there is the broad hinterland of the *7LS*, the *London Review of Books*, the *New Statesman*, numerous other weeklies and the middle-market and regional press. A very substantial sieving of books goes on in Britain. Slackness and preoccupation with their own writing, rather than venality, is most often the temptation of literary editors. I recently heard of one literary editor of *The Speculator* who was also a poet and who rang up a writer urgently asking him to review a book that he had already written about in the *Speculator* three weeks before.

Early in his career, nearly every literary editor gives a book out of kindness to some pleading freelance, only to find he cannot print the man's review and has made him even more miserable than he was before. Then another hopeful face looks round his office door, and he falls into the trap again.

The simple art of lunching

It was about one o'clock in the afternoon when the PM's long goodbye began...

There's some days on the Street that it seems things can't get no better. The sky can't get no bluer and the sun no brighter. You go into Schmilers and you say, "Schmilers, can you remember a day when the powers-that-be stuffed their privates so completely in the salami slicer?" And Schmilers says, "Nope. And they're turning the handle like a Riga organ-grinder." He pours me a Daniels. "So how you see it unfolding?" he asks.

Now this is a two-bit Chicago sting. This is a class operation. Park Lane, the real McCoy. For reasons not immediately apparent, the Corporation wants the frighteners on John Major. It decides to get his sidekick the Chancellor to spit beans on him. The Corporation boss is owner of a Nottingham Hill speakeasy, but he has his eye on a Mayfair place called Nico at 90. He tells the boys always to eat there, so they pick it as their venue. This is despite it being home to the most expensive schmoozers in town. How Nico has the sphericals to charge a hundred bucks for a plate of gnocchi beats me. The boss has a moaner called Fingers Birt who forks out the dough like the stuff is ants in his pants.

This is how it is. The guys stake out the joint. Oakley will take the table by the window. Frank "Free Lunch" Dobson is with him and will be crucial in the drama. Two young guys, Soppel and Mardell, are given their big break. They must get the property into Nico's onto a banquet line-of-sight with Dobson, and pour wine down him till he spills the story. This may not be easy. I can remember a time on the Street when chancellors would no more lunch with reporters than they would risk a night in a Reno brothel.

I tell you, two bottles of Nico's best Barolo and the guys can't get the property to shut up. He says Major is raving on him. He may resign. Then he blurs some crap about loaded boomerangs with high explosives and a guy named Mawhinney with kids and scooters on the lawn. These guys are momma's boys and don't like this kind of talk. Next day Soppel does the usual thank you for the Chancellor having honoured him with lunch. He slides the blade into Major with a "Friends of the Chancellor hit



Show of unity at the Tory conference in October; but the Downing Street neighbours have fallen out after one briefing too many

Simon Jenkins

back at the Prime Minister today. "There are the usual denials and a few greenhorns choke on their toothpicks at Soppel hitting paydirt like this. Then comes the sting. Dobson rings his mob and declares it was not 'friends of the Chancellor' at all. It was the living, breathing real thing. The denials are a fraud. He saw it all at Nico's that day, may God, Oakley and half the damned British Broadcasting Corporation be his witness. This gets Soppel off what we professionals call an ethical hook. I cannot tell a lie, he says. It was me, and Mardell and the aforesaid property in person. You could hear the explosion right across town.

The property denies it again. He swears he'll always be Major's buddy like there was a gun in his neck. He and the Irish guy Mawhinney go down to Lenny the Lawyer and get an affidavit that they have been courting since they shared wet nurses back in '42. What a week for the boys. The fact is the whole sting has gone smoother than a blonde on Sunset Strip. We reckon the property is shortly for a walk off London Bridge with concrete boots. This is sad since the guys admired his way with polio cacciatore. As for Major, the horse manure has hit the punkah. His mob is in uproar and wants blood. The boss is so pleased he may make Nico the Corporation's canteen manager. This is odd since he's that already.

I feel genuinely sorry for John Major. He is vulnerable to every accident. Last April he reached an agreement with his two most powerful ministers on a form of words about Europe that would carry the Tories through the

last until April. The pressure was great. Should it be revised or killed off? This was the question that Mr Major asked his friends and others two weeks ago. His aides let it be known that he might change "wait and see" to "not in the coming Parliament", or even to personal opposition. There was a flurry of covert briefing. Downing Street cannot deny this. I heard it with my own ears and from many sources. The story broke in Monday's *Daily Telegraph*.

I was amazed. Surely this was wobble just when steadiness was most needed. It would also undermine the April agreement. The gauntlet thrown down to Mr Major's two heavyweight colleagues was blatant. Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke had often been bloodied in battle under Mr Major, but they carried their lances to the end. They were masters of the "friend", the intermediary, the call to the editor, the after-hours drink, the precision lunch. To both of them the April deal was sacrosanct. It sealed their backing for Mr Major during last year's leadership crisis. Certainly he was under pressure from the ranks to end "wait and see". He should resist such pressure.

Had the briefing remained covert, I suppose the operation could have been quietly concluded. Mr Major privately mooted a change. Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine said no. Mr Major admitted defeat in the Commons on Tuesday. A serious question would have been asked and answered within the confines of the club. The privacy of British political reporting would have performed its proxy for open democracy. Behind an arras of mendacity, a debate would have been held and resolved.

The arras was torn aside chez Nico. Revealed was a senior minister threatening his boss and abusing his party chairman to two reporters, in the sight if not the hearing of witnesses. He thought he was protected by "lobby rules", which have become a licence to badmouth colleagues without fear of attribution and thus retribution. Revealed too were reporters giving the public what they knew to be a distorted story and only coming clean when their cover was blown. As for the source of the *Daily Telegraph's* revelation of Mr Major's wobble, it remains wholly obscure. Readers and listeners should assume that the phrase "friends of" is lobbyistpeak for the person himself.

Mr Major may have become a political Houdini of Wilsonian longevity, but as I write this I cannot see his way out of this predicament. His Commons majority has now effectively gone. He surely cannot keep his two senior colleagues with him and meet the antagonism to the "wait and see" policy, that is welling up in the Conservative Party. Perhaps Christmas will come to his aid. Perhaps a war or a sex scandal or a royal marriage will miraculously appear between him and fate's cascading avalanche.

At least for the time being, he might adhere to a humble principle of his predecessors. All communication between the Cabinet and the media should be left to qualified government press officers. They may have their limitations. They may not feed public frenzy on radio as Cabinet ministers seem to do. But they could not land the Government in a worse mess than ministerial do-it-yourself. Nor do they eat at Nico's.

By a whisker

ALARMING NEWS has come in from the island of Syml, the Dodecanese jewel renowned for its Greek sponges, where Tony Banks, Labour's forthright Member for Newham North West enjoys his summer holidays.

Banks, animal lover and vice-president of the Cats Protection



Banks: the animal's friend

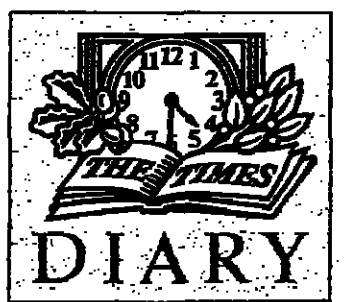
League, has been sponsoring an elderly tom on the island. He gives money to one of the locals to feed and care for him, and has spent a couple of hundred pounds on the beast over the years.

But on the island, they say the old tom has been killed by local authorities in a recent cull of cats. In the past, the officials have conducted neutering programmes to curb the cat population, but Banks was unaware of his cat's fate and he is investigating.

"He was always a rather pleasant old tom," said Banks yesterday, "well endowed with a snub nose — just like an MP I could name. The Greek authorities have become more aware of the sensitivity of our attitudes to cats, so I hope the reports are untrue."

Banks does concede, however, that the local chap he's been paying to look after moggie might not be spending all the cash in the desired manner. "I have noticed that, ever since I started giving him the money, his ouszes have been larger."

Earlier this year, Euro-sceptic Tories formed a new pressure group which they named *Café*



Society, an acronym for Conservatives Against a Federal Europe. In response, the rebels may soon face opposition from a body of Conservative Europhiles, considering establishing Pro-European Union Brits, or Pub.

Team player

FORGET the rows over the single currency. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor at the hub of the Government's most recent fiasco, has more important things to worry about. Nottingham Forest, his local football club, is languishing at the bottom of the Premiership. "There is quite enough talent for them to be much higher up the table," he ventures in the *Nottingham Evening Post*.

Clarke admits to being "very worried" by Forest's performance,

and says that pressure of work has forced him to miss most recent matches. The few he has seen this season have been even worse than the Government's performance.

"I went to West Ham by getting myself paired with an Opposition MP. They were slaughtered," he said. He believes that the manager Frank Clark can lift the side, but he remains the thrifty Chancellor down to his Hush Puppy laces, and rules out spending on transfer fees: "I don't think you should assume that an injection of money solves everyone's problems."

Rehearsals are all the sadder among the blue-ribbons of the Bach Choir after the announcement that the Duchess of Kent is suffering from ME. She is a veteran of the choir, taking part in almost all their concerts. Sir David Willcocks, the 76-year-old musical director, suggests that the Duchess should continue the warbling. "I'm not a medical man, but music can be greatly uplifting to the soul."

No entree

ANGRY voices upset the whispering calm of Wilton's restaurant in Jermyn Street earlier this week as Lord Gowrie found himself denied his usual table. He had come in with two young women on his arm,

only to be told that there had been a confusion over his booking. Not used to such treatment, Gowrie began to make a scene at the bar. Eventually, the furious peer left without his lunch.

Plácido Domingo's Covent Garden debut in a Wagner opera last night was not without its problems for the Royal Opera. As *Siegfried* in *Die Walküre*, he needed a car-star after Anne Evans pulled out on doctor's orders from playing Siegfried. Experienced Wagnerian Nadine Secunde was approached



"I wish to report my neighbours for making a nuisance"

and signed up, according to some sources. Covent Garden denies that she was ruled out by Plácido, claiming that she was too busy. Whatever the case, the American Karen Huffstodt stepped in ably.

All out

MORE TROUBLE for England's beleaguered cricket side in Mashonaland. John Embury, the assistant coach, has withdrawn his hyperbolic assertion on Radio 4 yesterday that *The Times* reporter Simon Wilde was an hour late and missed the highlights of England's pathetic performance — which was taken as a suggestion that Wilde's critical report was unreliable.

"It was an exaggeration and an off-the-cuff remark. I've since spoken with the reporter concerned about it. I understand that he was in fact five minutes late." Wilde was tardy because the lifts in his hotel were not working, and he was less than impressed with Embury's bouncer, which caused him domestic strife — the first person to phone him was his wife. "Where have you been?" she demanded.

QED

CHRISTMAS has been looking difficult for Jessica Lange, the



Lange: West End debut

award-winning American actress who makes her debut on the West End stage later this month at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Since the press night is on December 30, she thought she would spend Christmas in London with her two children and their father, the writer and actor Sam Shepard. Shepard, however, refuses to fly. "So he's coming over slowly on the QE2," says a friend. "He'll get to Southampton just in time for Christmas."

P.H.S



DOWN AMONG THE TORIES

Anger, gloom and barely a glimmer of seasonal cheer

In these last days before election year, the Tory party presents a cracked and crumbling face to the nation. Yesterday Sir John Gort marked a further step on the march towards minority government at Westminster. But Sir John is merely one among many, one day's representative of the disappointed, the frustrated, the distrustful and the self-seeking, who fill the Conservative ranks. Tomorrow's spotlight will easily find a different MP, one driven mad by Downing Street doubts on Europe, anxious for old battles on VAT or simply keen to see his or her name in a headline.

The cold season of discontent has come early. This is not predominantly an outside threat, like the one that James Callaghan faced from the unions. This discontent is deepest on Mr Major's own benches, round his own Cabinet table, among his own activists. The governing party has become a collapsing party.

It need not have been thus. Mr Major enraged his MPs by refusing to allow them a debate on a single currency; he was then rescued by his Chancellor, who found in Budget week that he was doubly invaluable to his leader. Mystery still surrounds the next stumbling step. If the Prime Minister or his aides deliberately planted the story in Monday's *Daily Telegraph* that he wanted to rule out joining a single currency during the next Parliament, this was "kite-flying" of unparalleled folly. One gust of wind tore the string from his hands. If the *Telegraph* story occurred through the confusion or credulity of journalists, Mr Major should have tackled Kenneth Clarke before Kenneth Clarke tackled him.

The Prime Minister could have regained control. He could have reiterated the "wait and see" policy for now, while refusing to answer hypothetical questions about the future. Instead he allowed a result which simultaneously both drew attention to his weakness and infuriated the majority of his MPs and party workers. Mr Major is left once more in search of new escape routes.

The convergence criteria for EMU still constitute a possible exit. Kenneth Clarke

has said twice recently that he would not want to join a single currency whose other members had fudged their economic figures. Since fudge is all that we can expect from the Euro-negotiators, Chancellor Clarke ought reasonably to be persuaded, between now and polling day, that Britain should stay out for now on economic grounds.

If no change can be achieved, Mr Major will go into an election — which may now be sooner than he wants — with an equivocal policy at the top and anarchy below. MPs are vigorously planning freelance political careers, making up their own mini-manifestos so that their election addresses include a commitment to vote against Britain joining EMU. There is even the prospect of some ministers taking such a step. The election would then risk looking like the "soldier's battle" at Inkerman, when the fog was so dense, the command so calamitous and the cry of each infantryman was of every man for himself.

And that would now be a "good" outcome for Mr Major. Under a "bad" outcome, Cabinet right-wingers, furious that Mr Clarke and Michael Heseltine have been able to blackmail the Prime Minister, will ask why this small minority should have a free run. These sceptics may even threaten to resign themselves if they are not allowed a vote in Cabinet on whether to rule out joining the single currency. The fatal split, so often predicted for after the election, could yet happen before.

Luckily for Mr Major, Christmas is coming and there are no important votes in the Commons until the New Year. By January, though, the Ulster Unionist leaders will be looking more carefully at their calendars. They may continue to support the Government in the hope that a Tory recovery could deliver them their yearned-for hung Parliament. On this week's record, however, they may believe that a Labour majority is a certainty. If so, they could now win credit for delivering the general election that Labour wants to fight while its opponents are down.

WHEN IN ROME

Carey's visit may have been more valuable than it appeared

At first glance the Archbishop of Canterbury made very little progress in his first official visit to the Vatican this week. Although Pope John Paul II received his guest with appropriate courtesy and all due pomp, he adopted a somewhat uncompromising tone. He stressed his unique role and special obligation as "the successor of St Peter" to pronounce on all doctrinal questions. While His Holiness acknowledged a "new spirit of co-operation" between members of the two faiths, he also took the chance offered by their "common declaration" to denounce the ordination of women priests as the chief obstacle to further ecumenicalism.

This trip, however, had wider objectives than surviving formal meetings with the Pope. When he arrived in Rome four years ago on a private tour, Dr Carey, then fresh in office and barely familiar with his own post, arrived with a small entourage and very limited ambitions. His impact was tarnished in advance by his own rather undiplomatic remarks about the papal position on birth control.

By contrast, on this occasion he has been surrounded by what may be the most high-calibre delegation ever led abroad by an Archbishop of Canterbury. That team has engaged in intensive discussions with the wider hierarchy of the Vatican. Deliberations between the two Churches have rarely been more intensive. Although conducted away from the public glare, such ties will come into their own if a future Pope wanted to initiate a more accommodating relationship with Anglicans. That pontiff might well be Carlo Maria Martini, Archbishop of Milan, with whom Dr Carey held convivial

talks yesterday. Their dialogue reflects the Church of England's objective of broadening contacts with the Roman Catholic Church rather than concentrating exclusively on the personal chemistry between the respective spiritual leaders. Any rewards for these efforts will not come for some time.

There are also clear limits to the progress that can be made towards unity between the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions. The differences between the two in both theological terms and in church governance are substantial. The ordination of women may reinforce those distinctions but it did not create them. Even in the implausible circumstance that the Church of England reversed its stand on the female priesthood, reunification with Rome would not follow. That reality was acknowledged by the Porvoo Agreement with Lutherans last month.

None of this suggests that the Archbishop's efforts are futile. Ecumenicalism is about moving Christians closer together and enhancing mutual understanding, not necessarily preparing for merger. The separate and distinctive features of Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism, if recognised and respected, can be a force that strengthens God's word. The "common declaration" issued by Archbishop Carey and the Pope encourages their followers that "whenever they are able to give united witness to the Gospel they must do so, for our divisions obscure the Gospel message of reconciliation and hope." Jesus sought one universal Church but not necessarily a uniform institution. The prospect for that co-operation has been quietly enhanced by Dr Carey.

THE MASHONALAND QUESTION

Four Whitehall ways to look at a seven-wicket defeat

PM/Mash./Ather./Classified/7.xi.96). You have asked, Prime Minister, for a full and urgent report on the Mashonaland Question, namely the England cricket team's recent seven-wicket defeat at the hands of that distant region's eleven. Please find attached a list of our observations.

1. Reach for *The Times Atlas*. Mashonaland is the northern half of Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, bordered on the east by the Portuguese-speaking land of Mozambique. It is watered by the rivers Umfolozi and Umfolozi, and is 109,232 square kilometres in size. (Footnote: although instructive on geography, this approach sheds little light on England's mortifying debacle.)

2. Look on what is vulgarly called "the bright side". The Mashonaland cricket team is the best in Zimbabwe (which has a two-team national cricket championship). A loss to them is, arguably, not quite the disaster that some of the more overheated cricket correspondents are saying it is. It is not as if Michael Atherton's men have lost to Matabeleland (refer to aforementioned atlas once more). Now that, truly, would be time to deploy our emergency bowling machine.

3. Adopt a Machiavellian approach for the next tour. Since Mashonaland's main players are all tobacco farmers, make sure that England's next visit is smack in the middle of Zimbabwe's tobacco harvest. We would

then face a substitute team composed mainly of chicken farmers and maize-growers, which, we are informed by our High Commission in Harare (formerly Salisbury), would be a much less daunting task for our men in white flannels. (Talking point: Zimbabwe's tobacco is rather good because its seedlings are thinly mulched and germinated outdoors in cold frames.)

4. Send a prime ministerial rocket to Mr Atherton (forgetting for the moment that you sympathise with his beleaguered position, and that you share with him a talent for weaving tapestries of crisis from the barest threads). "England are still a bit rusty," said Mr Atherton after the defeat. We think that he should be told that this is poppycock. Whereas that may once have served as a genuine excuse for our sepia-tinted teams of old, which sauntered for months in steamships to tours in distant parts, modern cricketers must not be allowed to invoke such arguments. Have they not heard of "pre-season training"? Even our political parties engage in that, with their "pre-season" conferences in seaside places.

Mr Atherton has a poor back. We suggest, also, that he has a poor attitude. You must tell him so, with the full face of your prime ministerial bat. This is much more important than EMU, so please do not mince words as you usually do. (End memo).

Homosexuality as a political issue

From Sir Ian McKellen

Sir, In his latest outburst against homosexuals, Dr Adrian Rogers, prospective parliamentary candidate in Exeter (letter, December 4), has three odd ideas. He implies that we gays are unfitted to be Members of Parliament. He "regrets deeply" open discussion about sexuality amongst the young (what he terms "the campaign to deceive a generation of young people that homosexuality is normal"). And he would certainly suppress any "display" of homosexuality.

What has he to complain of? Only two Members of the Commons say that they are gay. Section 28 of the 1988 Local Government Act discourages state school teachers from educating their pupils in this matter. Declaring (and thereby "displaying") one's homosexuality can be legal grounds for dismissal from employment in the United Kingdom.

Dr Rogers is not the first Christian to confuse a personal concept of sin with public criminal law. Yet, with harsh laws on his side, as well as the ancient bias of his religion, why does he feel he is the one person who is prepared to speak publicly for "a silent and cowed majority"?

With such a whiff of paranoia in the election air, perhaps it is not, after all, Dr Rogers's gay rival at the polls who is unfitted to be Member of Parliament for Exeter.

Yours ever,
IAN MCKELLEN,
c/o ICM, Oxford House,
76 Oxford Street, W1,
December 4.

From Mr Michael Grandage

Sir, Dr Adrian Rogers writes that he would suppress any "display" of homosexuality.

A doctor who is also a Christian might be expected to understand that a lifetime of lying about one's sexuality is bad for the health and for the spirit.

A prospective parliamentary candidate might also realise that it is bad for the nation's life, in that honesty becomes a victim of discrimination and prejudice.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRANDAGE,
3 Brewster Road, E10,
December 4.

From the Executive Director of Stonewall

Sir, Dr Rogers is entitled to his views, however distasteful or indeed peculiar. But he goes too far when he claims that he is "far more tolerant of other persons' views than the homosexual lobby is" of people like himself.

No one is calling for Dr Rogers to be criminalised for airing his views. But he himself said, only last month in an interview on Radio 5, that if he had his way "there would be no gay clubs, no book shops, no contact organisations. They would be proscribed by law."

Yours sincerely,
ANGELA MASON,
Executive Director, Stonewall,
16 Clerkenwell Close, EC1,
December 4.

From the President of the Exeter Conservative Association

Sir, Dr Rogers was adopted as our prospective parliamentary candidate by a democratic meeting, open to all Exeter Conservative Association members. He was selected in the full knowledge of all his opinions and previous political activities, including those on homosexuality.

As of this date neither I nor the association office has received any call from either the public or our members, for the deselection of our prospective candidate. He will not be deselected, and has the full backing of the Exeter Conservative Association.

Dr Rogers is a convenient bogeyman for the homosexual lobby to hate.

Yours sincerely,
PERCY EVERSON,
President,
Exeter Conservative Association,
47a Magdalen Road, Exeter, Devon,
December 6.

From Mr Stephen Twigg

Sir, Surely, we have progressed beyond the point where serious political opinion can suggest that it is unacceptable for someone to be an MP simply because they are openly gay.

There are increasing numbers of us — in all parties — standing for Parliament and open about the fact that we are lesbian or gay. This is not in order to create an issue but because we want to be open and honest with the electorate.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN TWIGG
(Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Enfield Southgate),
c/o Fabian Society,
11 Dartmouth Street, SW1,
December 4.

From Mr Rikki Cleave

Sir, It was most thoughtful of Dr Rogers and Mr Mike Carter to write and confirm Matthew Parris's article of December 2.

I was initially not totally convinced by it, but now I see how right Mr Parris is.

Yours faithfully,
RICKI CLEEVE,
15 Eton Hall,
Eton College Road, NW3,
December 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Advent hymns, ancient v modern

From the Reverend Michael Crowther-Green

Sir, I thank Roger Scruton for his article, "Silent night of our hymns" (November 30) and agree with him that

The musical culture... which has been the greatest source of joy to me and my contemporaries is now dormant, surfacing for a week or so each Christmas, but too feeble to stay awake beyond Boxing Day.

I am glad he included Advent hymns and carols, for they too are a source of great inspiration. Many are translations from Greek or Latin and are memorable for the succinct way in which they introduce themes of hope, joy and justice — and of judgment (not a popular theme nowadays). Advent has been lost in the commercialisation of this season and the loss of its message is what follows.

The great festivals of the Christian year point to God and his initiative: there is a hunger and thirst to hear again that Good News. I regret that too many modern songs are so human-centred as to suggest that we are losing some of our cosmic vision. Without vision, the people perish. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CROWTHER-GREEN,
8 Egerton Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
December 2.

From the Reverend Alan Haine

Sir, The new hymns in *Mission Praise*, so despised by Roger Scruton, are frequently used in tandem with the Methodist Church's own hymn book. They fulfil a genuine need amongst many Methodist worshippers to address the Almighty in a style which they find natural to them.

Lottery policy

From the Secretary of State for National Heritage

Sir, Your leading article on the National Lottery "Cunningham's number" (December 3), was misleading in two key aspects.

You assert that our intention is that when the Millennium Fund ends, its money will be redistributed among the other four good causes. That is not so. The Government has already announced innovative plans for the use of the millennium good cause money in the next century.

Michael Heseltine told the Conservative Party conference on October 10 that we will create a new information and communication technology fund, designed to enrich our lives with "information of every sort to everybody" — probably the most exciting IT initiative this country has ever seen. You charge that the lottery is a regressive tax. On the contrary, evi-

dence shows that those in socio-economic groups C1 and C2 play the most, with the unemployed playing the least. And as for "the poor paying for the playthings of the rich", the facts show that small local projects up and down the country have been the main beneficiaries of the lottery, with over 50 per cent (5,628) of awards for projects of less than £50,000. Less than 3 per cent of awards are for projects of over £1 million.

The policy of the Labour Party towards the lottery is based more on ideological spite than reasoned or coherent argument. It would make a refreshing change if the Opposition for once accepted this success story rather than proposing to threaten these achievements. Unlike Labour, we will not raid the nation's lottery to fund frontline public spending programmes.

Yours faithfully,
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY,
House of Commons,
December 4.

From Mr G. C. Steele

Sir, This Christmas, according to *Mission Praise*, we can sing "O come all you faithful", an emaciated version of *Once in royal David's city* (no more "all in white shall wait around") and, worst of all, the seraph in verse 4 of *While shepherds watched* is replaced by a mere angel.

Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour!

Yours faithfully,
G. C. STEELE,
33 Bounds Oak Way, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
December 1.

dence shows that those in socio-economic groups C1 and C2 play the most, with the unemployed playing the least. And as for "the poor paying for the playthings of the rich", the facts show that small local projects up and down the country have been the main beneficiaries of the lottery, with over 50 per cent (5,628) of awards for projects of less than £50,000. Less than 3 per cent of awards are for projects of over £1 million.

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Yours faithfully,
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY,
House of Commons,
December 4.

Brunel auction

From Mr Michael M. Chrimes

Sir, The success of the sale of Bruneliana at Christie's (report, November 30) has serious implications for our national heritage.

The surviving documentary record of the Brunels' activities is virtually complete (whilst that of Isambard Kingdom's chief rivals, Robert Stephenson and Joseph Locke, is fragmentary), and the decision by a descendant to sell a share of the family heritage could have offered an opportunity to bring almost all these papers together again, for the first time in perhaps a century.

Instead, the auction sale has precluded the acquisition of an important part of our national heritage by a single publicly accessible archive — in this case, Bristol University. The university indeed acquired much of the material, as did the Institution of Civil Engineers, but our national heritage has been appreciably weakened overall.

The success of the sale will inevitably tempt others, and more fragmentation will follow. No obvious solution presents itself. One can only hope that private guardians of our national heritage will act responsibly and accept that they have an obligation to their forebears in maintaining the integrity of their heritage.

Yours etc,
M. M. CHRIMES
(Head Librarian),
The Institution of Civil Engineers,
Great George Street,
Westminster, SW1,
December 2.

the heathen. He was taken to be a saint by the monks of Ramsey Abbey, who built St Ivo's Priory near the village of Slepe (later known as St Ives); his presumed grave was found nearby some 1,000 years ago. The details of this story are in *The Life and Miracles of St Ivo* by S. B. Edgington, published by the Friends of the Norris Museum, St Ives.

By a strange coincidence, Cambridgeshire shares another saint with Cornwall — St Neot. Hopefully, there are no lorry drivers stuck outside Liskeard, desperately seeking a destination on the edge of the Fens.

Yours,
MICHAEL KNIGHT,
Quay Court, Bull Lane,
St Ives, Cambridgeshire,
December 4.

Millennium fountains

From Mrs G. A. Falvey

Sir, Mrs E. M. Thomas calls for more water displays, like the Shelley memorial at Horsham, which make imaginative and original use of water, are simple in form, open to the sky and open to the public (letter, November 29; see also letter, December, 4).

London has such a display: the Canadian War Memorial in Green Park, unveiled by the Queen in June 1994.

Built of red Canadian granite, with carved insets of maple leaves, a film of water continually flows over it mirroring the changing seasons, light, sky and clouds. The viewer's imagination and sensibility are engaged.

Yours faithfully,
GRACE A. FALVEY,
HAMPAGE MANOR,
Evesham, Worcestershire.

Threat to purity of English trees

From Mr P. J. Church

Sir, I was pleased to read Nick Nuttall's report "English oak threatened by cheap foreign seedlings" (November 29).

The gene pool of our native trees is indeed being polluted by imported stock — not just oak, but beech, pine and many other species. The reason is not, as Mr Nuttall suggests, merely one of price; it is also a matter of availability.

European forestry regulations require that, if grant is to be paid, species grown for timber such as oak and beech can only be grown from seed collected from a registered "stand" (a block of trees selected specifically for that purpose). In the UK these regulations are applied strictly by the Forestry Commission and there are not enough stands, especially of oak, to meet demand from nurseries.

Seed is therefore imported from registered European stands, not all of which are as strictly controlled as ours. If the Forestry Commission were to accelerate the registration of new seed stands more native stock of proven quality would become available.

Meanwhile landscape designers in the UK are increasingly specifying native stock originating "where possible" in the very county in which it is to be planted. This is often an impossible demand for nurseries to meet, due to the length of lead time required, and the contractor will therefore turn to imported stock.

Part of the answer lies, I suggest, in the preparation of guidelines for landscape designers, defining broad provenance zones such as eastern England or southwest Scotland. Too rigid a specification of the acceptable zone of origin defeats its own purpose.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. CHURCH (Managing Director),
Alba Trees plc,
Lower Winton,
Gladsuir, East Lothian,
November 29.

From Mr Mike Townsend

Sir, As Britain's largest charity dedicated solely to conserve native woodland, the Woodland Trust has been working for nearly 25 years to protect native tree species. It currently owns over 800 woods nationwide, covering more than 36,000 acres; it plants only oak of British origin, which we guarantee by a certificate tracing the tree's exact point of origin. Our planting scheme incorporates the 200 new woods for the millennium which will be created by the "Woods on Your Doorstep" projects to which your report refers.

A number of major nurseries, such as Maelor Nurseries in Shropshire, now provide information on provenance for a range of British tree species. Unfortunately, the number of nurseries which operate schemes of this type is still insufficient to meet the total demand for broadleaved trees in Britain.

Yours respectfully,
MIKE TOWNSEND
(Director of Woodland Operations),
The Woodland Trust,
Autumn Park, Dysart Road,
Grantham, Lincolnshire,
November 26.

From Mrs Pat Davies

Sir, Contrary to the information given in the illustration accompanying Nick Nuttall's report, red squirrels cannot digest acorns. They feed mainly on hazelnuts and conifer seeds, leaving acorns to their grey cousins, who can exist on them.

Yours faithfully,
PAT DAVIES,
Sheepale, Wickhurst Road,
Wald, Sevenoaks, Kent,
November 26.

What's in a name?

From Mr George Speak

Sir, I am obliged to comment on the recent correspondence on the significance of names (November 14, 21, 26, 30).

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SPEAK,
7 Scott Close,
Workshop, Nottinghamshire,
December 2.

From the Dean of Lichfield

Sir, Flying from Heathrow to Toronto last year, I had a Mr Rong sitting on my right. Unfortunately his English was so rudimentary that I didn't even attempt to explain who was sitting on his left.

Yours etc,
TOM WRIGHT,
The Deanery, Lichfield, Staffordshire,
December 4.

An orderly life

From Mrs P. A. Mills

Sir, Mrs Sheridan Taylor can share the (dubious?) honour of being her husband's "reliable databank" (letter, November 29) with the wife of G. K. Chesterton.

This notoriously absent-minded gentleman sent a telegram to his wife, with the following request: "Am in Market Harborough. Where ought I to be?"

Yours faithfully,
PAULINE A. MILLS,
34 Holmfield Avenue,
Stoneygate, Leicester,
December 2.

Weekend Money letters, page 37

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

DENIS JENKINSON



Denis Jenkinson (centre) and Stirling Moss celebrate their victory in the 1955 Mille Miglia

Denis Jenkinson, motor racing authority, sportsman and journalist, died on November 29 aged 75. He was born on December 12, 1920.

For half a century Denis Jenkinson was an active and highly respected figure in the world of motor sport. Once applied to as "an all-time, one-off, practical eccentric", he could count among his legion of friends in the international arena such leading figures as Juan Fangio, Jack Brabham, Jim Clark, Graham Hill and Stirling Moss.

It was as Moss's riding navigator that he himself entered the sporting history books, when together they won the now legendary Mille Miglia of 1955. Thanks to the superb driving of Moss and the meticulously accurate, pre-planned navigation instructions of the "lion-hearted" Jenkinson, their Mercedes-Benz SLR300 turned in a record average speed of 97.5 mph for the arduous 1,000-mile course.

"Jenks", as he was almost universally known, had already established his two-wheel and three-wheel credentials as a successful racing motorcyclist and as the active passenger when, in 1949, he and his rider, Eric Oliver, won the Motorcycle Sidecar World Championship. By that time he was also contributing regular and evocative articles to the pages of *Motor Sport*.

Born at Honor Oak Park near Lewisham in south London, the son of a senior employee of Thomas Cook and Sons, Denis Sargent Jenkinson received a sound basic training in engineering at the London Regent Street Polytechnic. While there he acquired also an acute, specialist knowledge of all forms of motoring, and began to make wider use of the skill he had always shown as an inveterate diarist.

PHILIPPA SAVERY

Philippa Savery, campaigner for the conservation of Bath, died on November 27 aged 93. She was born on January 31, 1903.



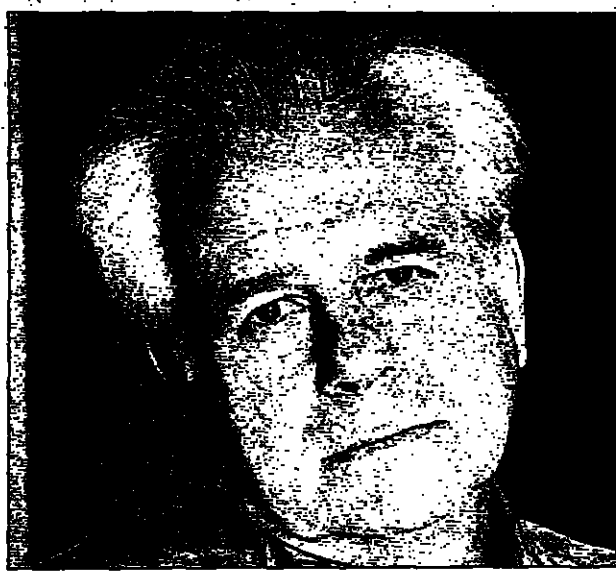
PHILIPPA SAVERY was a diminutive but doughty front-line fighter in the battle for Bath in the 1960s and early 1970s. In those bonanza years, although masterpieces such as the Royal Crescent and Circus were safe, bulldozers cut swaths through row upon row of lesser Georgian gems.

rich tradition of Bath's eccentrics. Like a Mrs Tiggy-Winkle in tweeds and brogues she bustled about the city, briskly bullying supporters, buttonholing councillors and developers, organising petitions and distributing propaganda, often at the wheel of a Bullnose Morris she had bought in 1929.

She eventually acquired the whole of the house where she had rented a room in 1946, and finally gave it to the Landmark Trust. Here she stored artefacts rescued from the demolition gangs, took in paying guests and still dabbled in antiques until she rebelled against VAT.

EDISON DENISOV

Edison Denisov, Russian composer, died in Paris on November 23 aged 67. He was born in Tomsk on April 6, 1929.



WHEN, towards the end of Khrushchev's reign, Soviet cultural policy became more open, Edison Denisov was one of the young composers to take advantage, and so find himself welcomed to the bosom of the Western European avant-garde.

In retrospect, though, his triumph as a Modernist looks to have been due to a misapprehension, even if his anagrammatical name — Edison V. Denisov — might have predestined him for a life as a serialist composer.

The 12-note series was always for him a source not of new structural thinking but of melodic motifs that would be repeated over and over again (a mournful descending phrase became almost a personal signature). Even such relatively early works as his orchestral *Painture* (1970) express a deep continuity with the Shostakovich tradition of tragic pathos.

On completing his post-graduate studies there in 1959, he was appointed to the staff, and from 1961 he taught orchestration. His access to Western music and musicians was unique at the conservatory, and his importance as a teacher will become more evident as more of his pupils gain an international standing.

flute and oboe (1979), bassoon and cello (1982), viola (1985), oboe (1986) and saxophone (1993), a reworking of his viola concerto).

He also found time to complete the works of others. His version of Debussy's opera *Rodrigue et Chimène* was staged in Lyons in 1993, and one of his last achievements was to finish Schubert's oratorio *Lazarus*. Both of these have been recorded, as have many of his original works.

Lycette Darsonval, ballerina, died in St-Lô, Normandy, on November 1 aged 84. She was born Alice Perron at Contances on February 12, 1912.



WHEN the BBC recruited dancers for a broadcast of *The Sleeping Beauty* in January 1952, its most ambitious television ballet until then, Lycette Darsonval was brought from Paris to play the lead. The production, by Christian Simpson, was on a grand scale (as far as studio facilities then permitted), with special effects by the silhouette artist Lotte Reininger.

The French ballerina was not an obvious choice: the Paris Opéra then had only a digest version of the ballet, so she had never danced the full role of Aurora. But the historian C. W. Beaumont, who was brought in as an adviser to the production, found her "a charming woman with a quick brain" who readily met all requirements, and she was much praised in the part.

But once back in Paris she returned to the ballet studios, perfected her virtuosity, won first prize in an international ballet competition in Warsaw, and was soon performing again, including tours with an émigré Russian company (where she danced the classic leads) and with the illustrious Serge Lifar.

the Opéra, persuaded her back there. She had to start again at her old rank of junior soloist, but within months she won for herself, in open competition, the coveted role of Giselle — previously the preserve of Russian guest stars Olga Spessivtseva and Marina Semyonova.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Gian Bernini, sculptor, Naples, 1598; Allan Cunningham, writer, Keir, Dumfriesshire, 1784; Sir Redvers Buller, VC, general, Crediton, Devon, 1839; Sir Joseph Cook, Prime Minister of Australia, 1913-14; Silverdale, Staffordshire, 1860; Pietro Mascagni, composer, Leghorn, 1863; Willa Cather, novelist, Winchester, Virginia, 1893; Rudolf Friml, composer, Prague, 1879; Stuart Davis, painter, Philadelphia, 1894.

HMS *Bounty*, London, 1817; John Flaxman, sculptor, London, 1826; Edward Irving, founder of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church, Glasgow, 1834; Vicomte Ferdinand de Lesseps, promoter of the Suez Canal, La Chenaie, Belgium, 1858; Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Oslo, 1902; Thornton Wilder, novelist and dramatist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1907; Robert Graves, poet and novelist, Deya, Mallorca, 1905; Roy Orbison, singer, Nashville, Tennessee, 1988.

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Horace, Quintus Horatius Flaccus, Roman poet, Venusia, southern Italy, 65 BC; Mary Queen of Scots, reigned 1542-67, Linlithgow, 1542; Queen Christina of Sweden, reigned 1644-54, Stockholm, 1626; Eli Whitney, pioneer of the cotton gin, Westborough, Massachusetts, 1765; Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, novelist and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1903, Kvikne, Norway, 1832; Aristide Maillol, sculptor, Banyuls-sur-Mer, 1861; Georges Feydeau, dramatist, Paris, 1862; Jean Sibelius, composer, Hämeenlinna, Finland, 1865; Norman Douglas, essayist and novelist, Thuringen, Austria, 1868; Padraic Colum, poet, Longford, Co Longford, 1881; James Thurber, humorist, writer, Columbus, Ohio, 1894; Jim Morrison, singer and poet, Melbourne, Florida, 1943.

DEATHS: Adrian Willaert, composer, Venice, 1562; John Pym, leader of the opposition to King Charles I, London, 1643; Richard Baxter, Presbyterian writer, London, 1691; Thomas de Quincey, writer, Edinburgh, 1859; Herbert Spencer, philosopher, Brighton, 1903; Gertrude Jekyll, gardener and landscape architect, Godalming, Surrey, 1932; Simon Marks, Baron Marks of Broughton, retail trade leader, London, 1964; Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, 1969-74, Jerusalem, 1978; John Lennon, singer and songwriter, shot, Manhattan, 1980.

IRISH FREE STATE.

PEACE TERMS IN FULL (By Our Parliamentary Correspondent) The Irish Agreement will be submitted to the British Parliament for ratification by both Houses next Wednesday... It is the ratification of the Agreement with which the Government is immediately concerned in summoning Parliament. The framing of the Act which must also be passed through Parliament will follow at more leisure. The first essential, after the Sinn Féin Government has accepted the terms of the settlement, is that they should also be accepted by the Parliament of Great Britain.

ON THIS DAY

December 7, 1921



The first article of the Treaty provided that Ireland should have Dominion status. The Treaty split the nationalists and civil war broke out, during which Michael Collins was killed. The Irish Free State came into existence on December 6, 1922.

the keen and detailed negotiations with the Sinn Féin delegation opened on November 11, nearly two months ago. There was a complete lack of optimism in the Cabinet when the last phase of the negotiations began. It is no secret that the Prime Minister, after his encounters with Mr. de Valera, was afraid that he would be dealing with idealists and theorists whom it would be impossible to bring down to the discussion of hard and concrete political facts.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY

sec

BUSINESS

£160 million shake-up in the pipeline
PAGE 26

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WORKING WEEK

Clothing king who courts controversy
PAGE 27



SPORT

Andrew prepares for parting shot at Twickenham
PAGES 40-48

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF TEESIDE

PAGE 27

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

Lang orders two airlines to surrender 168 slots a week at Heathrow

Price set for BA link to AA

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS and American Airlines must surrender 168 take-off and landing slots a week at Heathrow if they are to proceed with their alliance. The high price for the link-up between the two most powerful airlines on the North Atlantic was demanded by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, who threatened to refer the alliance to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if the airlines fail to agree to the conditions. Last night BA indicated it was ready to accept.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said details of the proposals had already been discussed with the regulator. "The permanent, unconditional divestiture of slots is unprecedented and if done it must be on the basis of fair market value," he said. "We have always accepted that carriers would need adequate access to Heathrow. BA has indicated that it is prepared to assist the introduction of additional competition."

But rival airlines argued that the demands do not go far enough and will continue to press for a full referral to the MMC. Richard Branson, head of Virgin, said: "The cosy monopoly that BA and American want to create will eventually end up being referred to the MMC. It always was fundamentally anti-competitive and we are delighted that Mr Lang agrees."

United Airlines said that it was no more than "a step in the right direction" and fell short of achieving proper competition at Heathrow. After studying the planned alliance — regarded by some as a near merger that would create a monopoly on many key transatlantic routes — the Office of Fair Trading advised Mr Lang that the link should be referred to the MMC. But, instead, Mr Lang has asked the Director-General of Fair Trading to "explore whether his concerns could be remedied by undertakings as an alternative to reference."

A year later a further 28 slots would be "leased" to competing airlines on a temporary basis and revert back once they had acquired slots for themselves. A number of other conditions were also laid down, including allowing "third-party" access to the two airlines' frequent flyer programmes. The 168 slots a week demand actually means that only 12 services a day would be affected. One pair of slots per day would have to be handed to competitors on the London to Dallas route, and another pair on the London to Boston route.

Under the proposed alliance the two would arrange their take-off times to fit in with each other to create a regular service across the Atlantic and share both the costs and the profits. They argue that this would create greater choice for passengers throughout Europe and keep both Heathrow and Britain at the forefront of world aviation. But bilateral talks on the air service agreement between Britain and America broke up yesterday without agreement. Even if the two airlines agree to abide by Mr Lang's conditions, they must still satisfy the US Department of Justice and the European Commission.

Greenspan triggers worldwide plunge on stock markets

By OUR BUSINESS AND FOREIGN STAFF

WORLD stock markets yesterday plunged after Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, issued a warning about the dangers of "irrational exuberance" in pushing share prices ever higher. His remarks in Washington on Thursday night triggered panic selling in Tokyo, Hong Kong, then London and continental European markets before moving on to Wall Street. In London the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares fell almost 170 points at one stage. In New York the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 143 points in the first two hours, but then recovered smartly after figures showing a rise in US unemployment which allayed fears of higher American interest rates.

At the close, the FT-SE had recovered to a loss of 88.2 points, finishing at 3,963. This was still the biggest one-day fall since October 5, 1992, after sterling had to leave the ERM. In New York, Mr Greenspan's evident discomfort with Wall Street's rise of 25 per cent this year sparked a day of whipsaw trading in all leading markets. Stocks and bonds swung into negative territory and back while the dollar slumped on fears that US markets are heading for a stock market crash similar to that in 1987. Yesterday's fall on Wall Street followed drops of more than 70 points on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"This is edge-of-the-seat stuff," said one US fund manager. "You can't stop concentrating for a second with the market like this. It's great if you're making money but terrible if you're not."

By mid-session, Wall Street

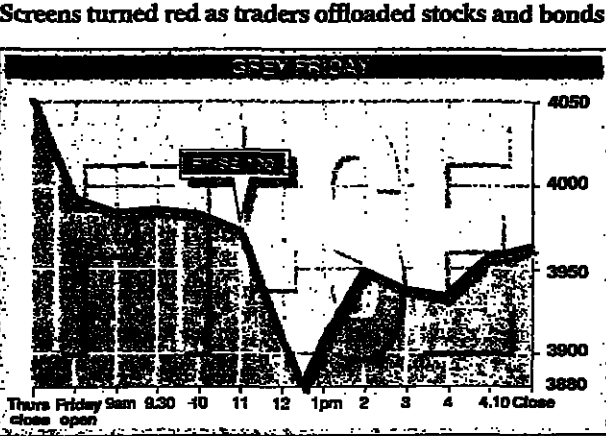
Markets 28

had recovered to a loss of about 60 points, helped by news that US unemployment had risen to 5.4 per cent from 5.2 per cent, proof that the economy is not overheating. In London, George Magnus, chief international economist at UBS, said: "This will prove to be a storm in a tea cup. It is not the beginning of a meltdown. Mr Greenspan just issued a euphoria warning."

London turnover of 726 million shares was low, suggesting yesterday's events had been more of a damage limitation exercise than a concerted sell-off. Traders in London have been predicting a correction on Wall Street for a while. Bob Semple, NatWest Markets UK strategist, said: "It does show us that the markets are very nervous and after a good, long bull run, people are beginning to look for a correction. On the evidence to date, it could come from Wall Street."



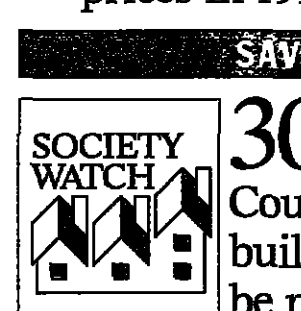
Screens turned red as traders offloaded stocks and bonds



Prospective £1.5m payoff 'a pittance'

By FRASER NELSON

ANDREW COOK, chief executive of William Cook, the engineering firm, stands to receive £1.5 million in compensation if his company falls to the £88 million hostile bid from Triplex Lloyd, its rival. Mr Cook described the prospective payoff as "a pittance". He said that he had no moral qualms about his five-year contract, and did not regard £1.5 million as sufficient compensation for losing control of the company that his family founded in 1902. "It's a pretty small price to pay for losing your life's work," Mr Cook said. "I don't think it's excessive at all."



Andrew Cook, chief executive of William Cook

Mr Cook described the prospective payoff as "a pittance"

He said that he had no moral qualms about his five-year contract, and did not regard £1.5 million as sufficient compensation for losing control of the company that his family founded in 1902.

"It's a pretty small price to pay for losing your life's work," Mr Cook said. "I don't think it's excessive at all."

In a defence document issued yesterday, William Cook described the Triplex Lloyd bid as "ludicrously cheap", and ignored its investment plans.

Triplex's offer of 30p a share is 28 per cent above William Cook's pre-bid market value.

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BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	3963.0	(-88.2)
Yield	4.02%	
FTSE All share	1942.22	(-41.51)
Index	20276.70	(-687.29)
Dow Jones	6380.06	(-67.02)
S&P Composite	737.80	(-6.58)
10-year bond	6.15%	(0.01%)
3-month bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
1-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
5-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
10-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
15-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
20-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
25-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
30-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
35-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
40-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
45-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
50-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
55-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
60-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
65-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
70-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
75-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
80-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
85-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
90-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
95-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)
100-year bill	5.51%	(0.01%)

Investors in MG could get £300m

By ROBERT MILLER

MORE THAN 90,000 investors in Morgan Grenfell's troubled European unit trusts may receive total compensation of up to £300 million. Morgan Grenfell, owned by Deutsche Bank, promised compensation when three European funds suspended trading after alleged irregularities came to light. Peter Young, manager of two of the trusts, was sacked for "gross misconduct" and is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office. Immo, the fund manager's watchdog, is looking at the use of investors' money to buy shares in illiquid unquoted stocks in breach of City rules. An Immo letter, which investors have sent to The Times, states: "It is clear that payment is due to those investors who suffered as a result of these investments... We are currently finalising with Morgan Grenfell the correct method of calculating the amounts due to individual investors and hope to announce the method before Christmas."

Northern rejects raised US bid

By MARTIN WALLER

CALENERGY, the American energy concern bidding for Northern Electric, has offered an olive branch in the shape of a 20p-a-share increase in the value of its bid, to meet an immediate stern rejection from its quarry. The final cash offer for Northern, the electricity distributor covering northeast England, came in at 650p a share, or 105p cash for each preference share, valuing the company at £782 million, with CalEnergy arguing that the alternative was a collapse in Northern's share price. However, the new terms had little impact in yesterday's tumbling stock market. Northern shares rising by just 14p, to 662p. Analysts are convinced that the CalEnergy offer will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission later this month by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading. The higher offer was put together before yesterday's stock market plunge. Some

Sony aims to create 1,000 jobs

By IOLA SMITH

SONY yesterday announced a £50 million expansion programme that will create 1,000 jobs over the next two years at its South Wales plants in Bridgend and Penctum. The Japanese company will introduce a new production line that will make cathode ray tubes for 28in and 32in wide screen televisions. Sony employs 4,000 people in South Wales. This latest investment is the company's eighth expansion since setting up in Wales in 1973. Over the 23 years, Sony has invested £300 million in the principality. That is part of the £2.5 billion spent in Wales over the past ten years by inward investors who have expanded in the country. Sony's Welsh plants are the company's largest facilities in Europe. They produce 1.6 million colour televisions a year, 2.4 million cathode ray tubes and 800,000 display monitors. Eighty-five per cent of this output is exported. Forty small and medium sized Welsh firms supply Sony.

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GEC takes £160m charge for restructuring

By OLIVER AUGUST

GEC, the industrial group, is to spend £160 million on a restructuring programme in the first substantial move by George Simpson, the new chief executive.

Interim results, already depressed by the restructuring charge, were also affected by the soaring pound, which is hurting GEC's export potential. Pre-tax profits fell from £402 million to £261 million in the six months to September 30 and earnings per share were 5.5p, down from 9.1p.

The interim dividend was raised from 3.1p to 3.26p and will be paid on March 27. Of the £160 million to be spent on restructuring, £45 million will go on imposing up to 1,000 job losses at AG Power Transmission and Hazeltine Corporation, two recent US acquisitions. Improvements at existing divisions will account for £65 million.

A further £50 million is to be

spent on adjusting the book values of two unnamed businesses, which GEC hopes to sell by Christmas.

Lord Prior, the chairman, said the group was carrying out a fundamental review of all aspects of its activities and management structure in the wake of the appointment of Mr Simpson, who replaced Lord Weinstock. GEC's driving force for many years.

Lord Prior said: "The recent strengthening of sterling is adding to the difficulties of exporting from the UK and, if sustained, will reduce the earnings, when expressed in sterling, of our overseas businesses and joint ventures. Nevertheless, the group's record order book, strong cash position and the excellence of its key businesses continue to give the board every confidence in the prospects for growth."

GEC is still looking for a

solution to the change of ownership structure at Framatom, the French nuclear engineering business in which it has a 50 per cent stake via a French subsidiary. The French Government is opposed to GEC holding such a stake. David Newlands, the finance director, said GEC would insist on having as much management influence as possible if its stake was to shrink to 49 per cent.

Lord Weinstock, who now holds the title of chairman emeritus, recently said: "Framatom is an important operation because nuclear power will become an alternative again. There are going to be new nuclear construction programmes even though there are none at the moment. GEC Alstom will have a good card to play with Framatom."

Tempus, page 28

Modest rise in output at factories

By JANET BUSH

BRITISH manufacturing industry continued its modest recovery from this year's stagnation in October, as firms enjoyed the fruits of greater consumer demand.

Manufacturing output grew by 0.5 per cent compared with September, according to the Office for National Statistics. Taking the last three months compared with the previous three, the sector has grown by 0.4 per cent. However, since the same three months a year ago, manufacturing is still only 0.1 per cent higher, a mark of the long months when firms were saddled with huge unwanted stockpiles.

Industrial production, which includes the North Sea and energy sectors, fell marginally by 0.1 per cent in October. In the three months to October, compared with the previous three, industrial production was flat but 0.7 per cent higher than a year ago. Oil extraction as well as production of electricity, gas and water were all lower.

The Treasury commented: "The optimism of recent business surveys is now feeding into strengthening manufacturing activity."



Philip McDaniel, left, Chrysalis managing director, and Chris Wright, chairman, yesterday when the media group declared a £5.36 million pre-tax loss in the year to August 31 (£1 million pre-tax profit previously) and a 2.75p final dividend (same)

Wolves revives beer margins

WOLVERHAMPTON & Dudley Breweries, which serves one of the cheapest pints in the country, revealed yesterday that it has been able to push up retail prices to restore damaged beer margins (Alasdair Murray writes).

The company announced a 7 per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits, before property disposals, to £43 million.

Turnover increased 8.5 per cent to £250 million, while capital expenditure more than doubled to £66 million.

The retail division, which includes 656 pubs, increased operating profits 16 per cent to £35 million, achieving a 0.4 per cent rise in volumes. Food sales rose 17.3 per cent. Profits in the tenanted division rose 9.5 per cent to £9.1 million. A

final dividend of 11p is payable on January 31, lifting the total payout by 11 per cent to 17p.

David Miller, chairman, said Wolves would see the benefits of its investment programme coming through in the new financial year and that rising consumer expenditure is helping to boost volumes and margins.

City costs inquiry averted

By JASON NISSE

AN INQUIRY into how the City raises money for companies has been temporarily averted.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, has given the market up to four months' grace to continue cutting the cost of underwriting share issues and so avoid a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The move is a victory for Schroders, the merchant bank, which put out to tender the underwriting of a £22 million rights issue for Stakis, the hotel group, and saved about £800,000. A handful of other issues, mainly by Schroders and Kleinwort Benson, have followed suit.

Mr Bridgeman said these developments represented the first tentative steps to reform. He added: "In the absence of any progress, I would not have hesitated in referring this market to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission."

The OFT believes companies are being overcharged by more than 50 per cent for underwriting share issues. In the Stakis case and subsequent issues, the cost was reduced by about 11 per cent.

Another two rail franchises awarded

THE latest rail operating franchises were awarded yesterday, with Prism Rail taking West Anglia Great Northern Railway and a new company, GB Railways, gaining the Anglia Railways routes. Prism, a consortium of bus company directors, has already been awarded LTS (London, Tilbury and Southend) Rail, Cardiff Railway and South Wales and West.

Prism is to spend £14 million on improving station facilities, information systems and refurbishing rolling stock. The GB Railways franchise will run for just over seven years. The company will receive a £35.9 million subsidy in the first year, declining to £6.3 million in 2003-04. GB Railways plans to spend £2 million to be spent on stations, improved service frequency and punctuality, and a new rail-air coach link between Colchester, Essex, and Stansted airport. Prism's 1997-98 grant is £52.9 million. That will drop to £24.8 million by 2003-04.

Anderson sentenced

DONALD ANDERSON, the former finance director of Goldcrest, the Brent Walker film-making subsidiary, was yesterday sentenced to two years in prison. Anderson was convicted at Southwark Crown Court on Thursday of attempting to pervert the course of justice in a £19 million cover-up. Anderson, who surrendered to the Serious Fraud Office in 1995 having fled abroad in 1992, was also banned from being a company director for five years.

Whitchurch rights issue

RICHARD THOMPSON, deputy chairman of Caspian Group, owner of Leeds United Football Club, has taken control of Whitchurch, the troubled beefburger maker into which he injected his meat interests last year. Mr Thompson's businesses are backing a £3.25 million fundraising move by the company, whose shares have fallen from 68p when the deal was done to close at 26p yesterday. The two-for-three rights issue, priced at 25p, is being underwritten by Mr Thompson and his associates.

Switch in share deals

THE London Stock Exchange yesterday announced that the long-awaited move to order-driven electronic trading in FT-SE 100 shares will be completed on October 27 next year. Gavin Casey, chief executive of the exchange, said that an intensive period of testing and full-scale dress rehearsals would precede the launch. He said that a move to extend order-driven trading to other shares will be considered after next October, depending on market demand.

Examiner for Cityjet

CITYJET, the Irish airline that operates between London City Airport and Dublin, was yesterday given protection from its creditors with the court appointment of an interim examiner. The examiner will attempt to arrange a survival plan for the insolvent airline, which has net liabilities of £8 million. The High Court in Dublin was told the three-year-old company has more than a reasonable chance of survival. Cityjet will continue to operate 150 flights a week.

Fuller pulls ahead

FULLER SMITH & TURNER, the brewery company based in London, achieved a 4 per cent increase in first-half profits to £5.2 million, before tax and exceptional items, to £5.2 million, in the six months to September 28. Turnover rose 12 per cent to £49.4 million. The interim dividend, to be paid on January 17, was increased 6 per cent to 3.1p on the A shares and 0.31p for B shares. The A shares yesterday closed 7½p down at 445p.

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	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.15	1.80
Austria Sch	18.73	17.25
Belgium Fr	64.91	60.61
Canada \$	2.338	2.173
Cyprus Cyp	0.796	0.742
Denmark Kr	10.28	9.63
Finland Mk	6.12	7.47
France Fr	6.28	6.28
Germany Dm	2.87	2.87
Greece Dr	415	380
Hong Kong \$	16.31	12.31
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel Sh	5.88	5.88
Italy Lira	269.00	264.00
Japan Yen	186.20	182.20
Norway Kr	11.10	10.30
Netherlands Gld	2.878	2.768
New Zealand \$	2.48	2.28
Poland Zloty	11.10	10.30
Portugal Esc	209.00	204.00
S Africa Rd	6.22	5.42
Spain Ptas	218.50	204.00
Sweden Kr	11.74	10.94
Switzerland Fr	2.26	2.08
Turkey Lira	170.00	160.00
USA \$	1.798	1.608

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to investor's cheque. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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A business special in The Sunday Times tomorrow

A WORKING WEEK FOR: LUCIANO BENETTON

Clothing king who courts controversy

The courteous head of Benetton will go to great lengths to promote the business, even posing nude. Sarah Cunningham reports

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WITH HIS curly white hair, John Lennon-style wire spectacles and cosy woolly jumper, Luciano Benetton looks more like a genial professor than the showy, maverick businessman of repute. His quiet voice and courteous manner also belie his public image and make it hard to imagine him agreeing to be photographed wearing nothing but his specs and a big smile. But he did pose in the nude for an advertisement three years ago, and he did it for the same reason that he does most things — to promote the Benetton brand and so sell more jumpers.

After all, Benetton, 61, has been selling clothes since he was 14. From working as a teenager behind the counter of someone else's shop, he now heads one of the world's leading clothing groups, and has built up an immense personal fortune along the way.

The Benetton group was born, naturally, with a pullover, made for him in the late Fifties by his sister, Giuliana. "She made me a jumper in an untraditional and rather eccentric colour, a yellow," he recalls. "Friends kept on asking me where I had bought the pullover. After three had asked, it occurred to me that this was a market."

Spotting opportunities in the clothing market is what he loves doing. Although he is president of the whole group, he spends his time looking after the clothing business and leaves his younger brother, Gilberto, who is vice-president, to run the finances and the non-clothing businesses, such as motorway service stations and ski-equipment manufacturing. Another brother, Carlo, is production director, while Giuliana is design director. A number of their children also work in the company, based near Treviso, and even his mother, Rosa, still lives near by and cooks dinner for him once a week.

In spite of the obvious pitfalls for a family working so closely together for so long, he says that it always works well. "As a family we have always been able to work together because we have certain predispositions, we all have different interests."

Early hardships must also have helped to unify the family. Their father, who ran a car-tire business, died when Luciano was 10. The Second World War had just ended and Italy's economy was shattered. As the eldest child, Luciano had to leave school to help to keep food on the table. He remembers those years as "intense" — when he was not working he spent his time rowing or playing basketball.

That intensity is something that even now, nearly half a century on, he does not want to give up. He says he has no thoughts of retirement because he does not want to stop his constant travelling, which keeps him out of Italy at least half

the year. "I'm not thinking of quitting," he says, adding with typical ambiguity, "but that doesn't mean that there won't be more space for others to work."

A week when he is not travelling overseas will be split between days in the beautiful 17th-century villa where the group has its headquarters, and trips to Rome, Milan and other places in Italy. When overseas he has long days visiting the shops operating under a Benetton licence, talking to potential new partners, and sightseeing. The stress of travelling suffered by the average businessman is eased, he acknowledges, by making use of one of the group's three private jets. His latest trip included Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Burma. The company has shops in the first and the visit to the others was to look for new opportunities.

In spite of the politically correct stance of some of the company's advertisements — especially the United Colors of Benetton series showing rows of smiling, youthful, multiracial faces — he does not let politics influence decisions on where to open stores. Except in the most exceptional circumstances — he cites South Africa — politics are ignored when it comes to making investment decisions.

In the case of Burma, calls by Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy activist, for an economic boycott of the military-run country do not bother him. He says: "It would be impossible. Our relationship is with a local businessman who wants to do business with us and import our products. It is independent of everything else." In other words, if there is a market for the clothes, Benetton wants to be there. He says it was the same reasoning that led Benetton to open in Sarajevo at the height of the fighting and he claims he would have been equally happy to open in Belgrade, but a trade embargo made it out of the question.

When he visits a new country, his concerns are purely practical. "I want to see what the social life is, see whether there is a possible clientele. I'm usually very pessimistic. I prefer to wait an extra year rather than believe a very favourable but unrealistic forecast."

If a new shop does not then work, it is usually because the choice of products has been wrong for the local market, he reckons. He may say he is pessimistic, but he is certainly confident of the power of the Benetton name. "If the country's economy is going well and there are young people, there is a market for our brand," he says.

"If you are going to a country for the first time, you have to have a well known brand, something that young people, even if they have not travelled, recognise. We have always sought to publicise the brand. The clothes themselves can be promoted through the 7,000-odd shop windows." Because of his efforts — and those of Oliviero Toscani, the Benetton photographer and publicity guru — the Benetton name is recognised around the



Luciano Benetton says he has no thoughts of quitting because he does not want to stop travelling, which keeps him out of Italy at least half the year

world and, he reckons, is in the same league as Coca-Cola. What is different about Benetton brand building has been the courting of controversy. The protests triggered by the posters of new-born babies, bloodstained army fatigues, AIDS victims and the rest created the sort of coverage that advertisements alone could never muster. When asked about the campaigns, he smiles. He knows the trick has worked once again.

The advertisement in which he appeared nude had the slogan "I want my clothes back" and spearheaded a used-clothing drive. But even that was controversial as he was a senator at the time and was rebuked for bringing Parliament into disrepute. His career in the Senate, from 1992 to 1994, was his only real foray outside the world of clothing and not one he remembers fondly. He went into politics in the wake of the first wave of big corruption cases, known as *tangentopoli*. "I had the idea that it could be better to have people going into politics who did not need to do it for financial gain. It was just an idea and I now think that politicians need to work at it full-time."

He says that he simply did not have the time to undertake politics properly. "It wasn't the business that suffered, I suffered," he says. Like many successful businessmen, he is easily bored by

matters outside his own business, which he finds endlessly fascinating. His private life, he says, is quiet. He has been separated from his wife, Maria-Teresa, for more than 20 years and in the evenings he prefers to dine with friends. And to relax, he travels.

Even his interest in the group's highly successful Formula One racing team is the interest of a marketing man. The family member who loves the sport is his son and presumed successor, Alessandro, who also works with a Benetton venture capital outfit, 21 Investment. But for Luciano, "Formula One is a sport which is seen by hundreds of millions of people and so it is very good

advertising. To do well in a high-technology sport is good for a company like ours," he says.

Unlike many of his peers in the Italian business world — including Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon who entered politics with more spectacular results — he has not been touched by *tangentopoli*. He says the simple reason for this is that the group never tendered for public works contracts, the source of many a *tangente* (bribe). He has, however, been called to stand trial in March on charges that he was party to the fraudulent bankruptcy of the Fiorucci clothing company. He says he is innocent and that Benetton played no part in the business for the year and a half before it went bust.

Although he has no intention of becoming a politician again, he remains fascinated and infuriated by Italy's poli-

tics. "Here in Italy we have 150,000 laws. In England there are maybe 6,000-7,000. For the past 40 years, whenever a group of people have wanted something from the politician they have been satisfied with a law in return for their votes. It has blocked everything up. I want a well-organised State with about 5,000 laws. Otherwise it is like having indigestion; eventually you have to stop eating."

There may be high taxes, scandals and tens of thousands too many laws in Italy, but Luciano Benetton appears otherwise to have a rather charmed existence. As the interview wound up, he said he was about to set off for dinner with friends in Piedmont. "It's the truffle season," he explained, as if travelling 200 miles for dinner were normal. Perhaps for a man with three jets and a taste for the finer things in life, it is.

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

is his son and presumed successor, Alessandro, who also works with a Benetton venture capital outfit, 21 Investment. But for Luciano, "Formula One is a sport which is seen by hundreds of millions of people and so it is very good

Nature springs a surprise on industrial Teesside

To many people, Teesside conjures up visions of smoking chimneys, slag heaps, lime slurry and miles of unrelieved industrial monstrosities belching waste. In the past ten to 15 years, however, plants, birds and animals have been lured into this corner of North East England and have thrived, thanks to initiatives by industry to improve wildlife conservation in the area.

Of all the industrial giants, ICI has perhaps best demonstrated the ability to create new environmental assets on its land, much of which had been badly scarred by 150 years of industrialisation.

ICI is one of Cleveland's biggest landowners and the work it has done in the Teesside area over the past 15 years has created orchard colonies, reed beds, wetlands populated by dragonflies, tern breeding grounds,

ICI is a leading exponent of wildlife conservation, Joanna Pitman finds

woodlands, a seal programme in the Tees estuary and a badger rehabilitation programme. The Teesside projects have led ICI to set up Nature Link, an international wildlife conservation project that covers environmental work on land it owns in a dozen countries.

ICI began its involvement with nature conservation in the late 1970s when it leased Cowpen Marsh, on the banks of the Tees to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Marsh is still a nature reserve, although its management has been transferred to a committee comprising ICI, the Industry and Nature Conservation Association (Inca), and English Nature.

Much of the ICI land has been designated as a site of special scientific importance and when ICI sets up new industrial sites efforts are made to ensure minimal disruption to wildlife.

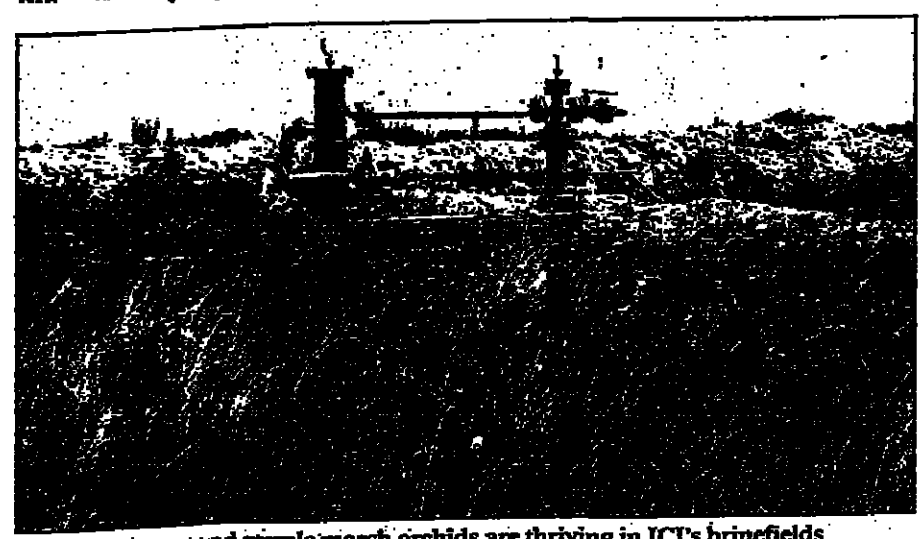
Take the proposed brine extraction wells on Cowpen Marsh. ICI relies on the salt deposits to produce the caustic soda and chlorine that go into disinfectants, solvents, detergents and plastics. The deposits are more than 300 metres below the surface and ICI will pump water into the boreholes to liquify the underlying salt layer. This is then pumped under the River Tees to the company's manufacturing plants.

On the surface, meanwhile, wildlife should continue as normal with large numbers of wildfowl and wading birds — teal, curlew, redshank, lapwing and golden plover — being drawn to the saltmarsh and grazing marsh of Cowpen. ICI will attempt to enhance the conservation area by recreating pools and lagoons and conserving reedbeds. Floating islands have been built to encourage terns to nest.

It will minimise ground disturbance by laying pipes on the surface along defined routes and putting in gravel rather than asphalt roads, gravel making even safer nesting sites for ringed plovers than the traditional beach hawks. Engineering work is also timed to prevent disturbance of the breeding season.

Ken Smith is a former ICI senior ecology adviser who now works as an ecology consultant for both ICI and Inca, the body that is co-ordinating an estuary management plan for the whole of the Tees. "We are expecting to end up with a site that will be better for wildlife when the drilling is finished than it is now. We have used all the knowledge accrued over years to make sure we do not detract from the area's conservation value and that we add to it where possible."

British Steel, Phillips Petroleum, BASF (all Inca members) and other firms are also investing in the preservation of wildlife assets so that it will not be long before Teesside will be more naturally associated with abundant wildlife, such as the carpet of more than 60,000 mauve and purple marsh orchids that bloom every summer on ICI's North Tees brinefields.



Mauve and purple marsh orchids are thriving in ICI's brinefields

can't make real airline loyalty schemes to our company?

travelling executives were choosing flights which earned maximum points rather than sticking to airlines offering the most economic flight

The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

BTR bucks the trend as shares plummet

BTR stood out from the crowd last night. It was the only constituent of the top 100 companies that made up the FT-SE 100 index to close up on the day.

It followed an upbeat trading statement that any other day would have had traders reaching for the phone to buy the shares. As it was, the industrial conglomerate's timing could not have been worse, coming out with its most positive trading news in many a month on a day when the rest of the London stock market was being hit for six.

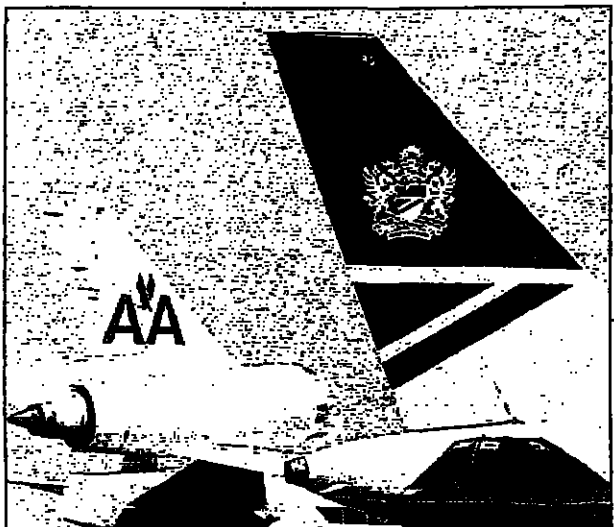
BTR expects the second half to show an improvement over the first six months, but said that a strong pound could hold back profits. It finished 7p dearer at 237.5p, not a bad performance when taking into account the double-digit falls being registered by the rest of the FT-SE 100 constituents.

The dramatic losses seen elsewhere in the market stemmed from overnight comments by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, about Wall Street's "irrational exuberance". In other words, the Dow Jones was too high and a correction was overdue.

His words sent a chill down the spines of investors overnight in the Far East where the Nikkei and the Hang Seng both fell sharply. It also set the scene for a sharp markdown in London as investors woke up to the fact that the US economy had problems of its own that might require a rise in interest rates.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index plunged almost 170 points, anxiously awaiting Wall Street's reaction to US employment figures. After initial nervousness that saw the Dow Jones industrial average tumble 144 points, share price on both sides of the Atlantic rallied as it transpired those employment numbers were not as bad as had been feared. The index closed 88.2p down at 3,963.0, a fall on the week of 95 points. The relatively low level of turnover that saw 724 million shares change hands indicated that yesterday's volatility was more of a damage-limitation exercise than a dramatic sell-off.

Blue chips were the hardest hit. Losses were seen in Abbey National, 19p to 681p, Barclays Bank, 32p to 10.02p, Barmah, 28p to 10.02p, Cadbury Schweppes, 21p to 486p, EMI, 47p to 613.31p.



BA hit turbulence over its link-up plans with American

General Accident, 28p to 706.5p, GKN, 44p to 10.38p, Schroders, 40p to 15.05p, Unilever, 37p to 13.72p, and Zeneca, 49p to 15.81p.

It was not the best day for Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to threaten to refer the link-up of British Airways with American Airlines to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless

Keep an eye on Berisford, the Magnet joinery group, where bid talks with a mystery suitor have broken down. The shares finished 1p lower at 138p in a battered market, with speculators looking for another bidder to emerge. Premark, the US group floated off from Tupperware last year, is tipped.

suitable undertaking were given. As part of the deal BA and AA had to give up 168 take-off slots at Heathrow Airport. This caused BA to run into turbulence, losing 12p to 579p.

GEC fell 2p to 363p as George Simpson, the new chief executive, began to make his presence felt and the group also chose to underline the problems posed by a strong pound. Mr Simpson is undertaking a big review of the

company. He has set aside £160 million for restructuring, which left pre-tax profits down at £261 million, compared with £402 million last time. The sharp overnight falls in Far Eastern markets left Standard Chartered nursing a loss of 28p at 663p, while setbacks were also recorded in HSBC, down 44p to £12.7p, and Cable and Wireless, 16p off at

437p, all of which have sizeable exposure to the Pacific Basin. Northern Electric, a takeover target, clawed back an early 10p deficit to end the session 1p firmer at 602p after rejecting increased terms from EC Electric, the US power generator. The US power group has raised its offer to 650p a share, valuing Northern at £658 million.

The rest of the electric sector lost ground with the rest of the

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market. There were falls for London, 12p to 646p, National Power, 5p to 453p, Northern Ireland Electricity, 10p to 356p, Scottish Power, 7p to 338p and Yorkshire Electricity, 6p to 757p.

Great Universal Stores continued to lose ground, falling 26p to 625p on the back of some disappointing figures earlier in the week. In spite of last month's £1 billion acquisition of Experian, the US credit-rating agency, it stretches the fall on the week to 58p.

Reed International also continued to beat a hasty retreat, falling 11p to £10.76p in the wake of the gloomy trading statement from Reed Elsevier, the trading company it owns jointly with Elsevier, the Dutch publishing group.

Jarvis lost an early lead to end 2p easier at 138p before the announcement of interim figures on Monday. Ten fund managers made a visit to the group's operations yesterday.

Hay & Robertson, the sports and leisurewear group, marked time at 113p in a falling market after signing up Ruud Gullit, player-manager of Chelsea Football Club. He has signed a five-year contract to endorse a new range of branded leisurewear and accessories to be called Ruud.

GILT-EDGED: The comments from Mr Greenspan rocked the market, with losses among longer dated gilts stretching to almost £1 in places. It refocused attention on the possibility of another rise in domestic interest rates.

The position was made worse by the news that Sir John Gorst, a Tory backbencher, had resigned the whip, wiping out the Government's overall majority. But the market took heart from flat industrial production in October to close above the worst levels of the day.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt ended down £2.32 at £108.92 as the number of contracts completed grew to 124,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 dropped £1.12 to close at £102.14, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks off at £102.32.

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks cut about half of their steep losses after a wild morning of trading that saw the Dow Jones industrial average plunge more than 140 points. At midday, the index was down 57.02 points at 6,380.08.

New York (midday)

Dow Jones 6380.08 (-57.02)
S&P Composite 737.80 (-4.59)

Tokyo

Nikkei Average 20276.70 (-667.23)

Hong Kong

Hang Seng 13102.73 (-388.83)

Amsterdam

EOE Index 616.26 (-12.18)

Sydney

AO 2313.9 (-49.6)

Frankfurt

DAX 2291.96 (-17.50)

Singapore

SEAC 2190.39 (-23.78)

Brussels

General 10298.77 (-144.73)

Paris

CAC-40 2240.72 (-51.28)

Zurich

SMI 812.40 (-16.43)

London

FT 30 2740.7 (-26.4)

FT 100 3963.0 (-88.2)

FTSE 100 3963.0 (-88.2)

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Greenspan blues

GONE are the days when a bullish stock market was deemed to be good news. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, is worried that rising asset prices could be inflationary and his musings late on Thursday ("Where do we draw the line on what prices matter?") sent the Nikkei index into a nosedive, followed by European markets on Friday morning. His concern is understandable. Wall Street's bull market looks unstoppable and we in Britain ought to understand how inflation in capital assets can feed through to consumer prices - remarketing of houses is a good example.

However, the concern is not bricks and mortar but financial assets. US house prices are rising, but only by 4.5 per cent. In the UK, they are enjoying a surge but after years of stagnation, it hardly represents grounds for a

panic interest rate increase. But the US stock market is hardly a bubble; corporate earnings growth is solid, enough to justify an average price earnings multiple of 18 times for 1996 compared to 15 times in London where a space of profit warnings is holding back prices.

Will the cash soaked up in stocks and shares feed an inflationary spiral? In the US, personal pensions, the new 401K plans, are keeping the pot bubbling but such long-term money should not be a lever for consumer price inflation. And in the UK, the institutions have been keeping cash on deposit, rather than chasing shares.

Greenspan fears a 1980s Japanese-style market bubble but we are a long way from that. Ironically the weak Tokyo market suffered worst from his musings - but excess was always a Japanese phenomenon.

GEC

THE PROSPECT of George Simpson at the helm of GEC built up heavy expectations in the City, but since his arrival in September, the share price has been running in the other direction.

This disappointment cannot entirely be laid at his door - the man is reported to have been on a grand tour of Lord Weinstock's demise. Nevertheless hopes are high that the current "strategic review of all aspects of the group" will generate more value for shareholders who tire of seeing their funds held on deposit in GEC bank accounts. Yet confidence is not improved by suggestions that the new strategy will not be unveiled until June.

Still, positive news could well emerge before then. The recent share price fall had

much to do with disappointment

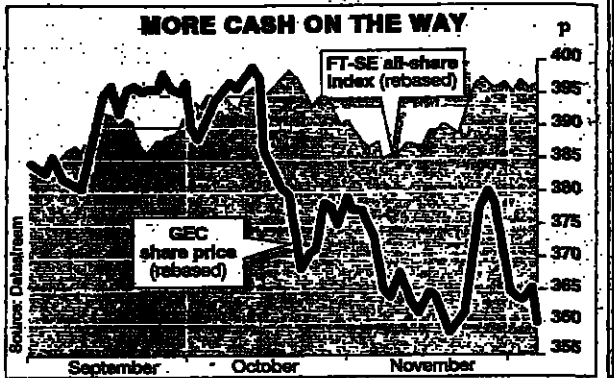
over the French Government's decision to turn down Alcatel's offer for Thomson.

Alcatel is GEC's partner in GEC-Alsthom and the British company would like to merge Marconi with Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics company. This week's about-turn on the

rival bidder

Lagardère could leave the door slightly ajar for GEC.

More certain is the prospect of disposals. Some £17 billion of non-core businesses could be on the block. More liquidity increases the pressure to invest, but with ample funds GEC is in pole position to lead a European defence combine.



NTT

JAPAN is the Holy Grail of the telecommunications industry. Asia's wealthiest market ought to be a magnet to the world's big phone companies. Even the likes of AT&T, BT-MCI and Deutsche Telekom cannot make a claim to global status without a foothold in Japan.

Easier said than done. The key to unlocking Japan has always been Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, the world's largest phone company by turnover. But the month is controlled by the Government and, therefore, lacks independence and has little flexibility. Dragging the Japanese telecoms market into the modern world by dismantling NTT has been under discussion since AT&T did the splits in the early 1980s. But nothing has happened and the latest developments are not convincing enough to convince structural. NTT is to be broken into three bits - two regional companies covering

eastern and western Japan and a long-distance business that will also offer international services. But the restructuring will not happen until 1999 at the earliest and the trio will still be controlled by the Government. The status quo has therefore been preserved.

This is a huge disappointment to large American and European carriers. They wanted NTT broken into competing units that might exchange a stake in the Japanese market for a link with an overseas partner. But the industry remains a closed shop. AT&T, BT-MCI will have to find open doors elsewhere in Asia.

Northern Elec

ONE of the few shares to rise on the London market yesterday was Northern Electric, if only because EC Electric, the US bidder, chose to increase its offer and to set a closing deadline of December 20. At least by then the Ameri-

cans should have heard whether their bid will be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, has until December 16 to decide whether to wave through the financially challenged bidder.

The Americans might yet find a falling market serves Northern up to them on a silver platter. They might also find exchange rates working against them. Recent sterling strength is reckoned to have reduced their room for manoeuvre by 10p a share, against the 650p put on the table yesterday and the 700p offered in pre-bid talks.

The big issue in this bid is gearing. Northern was already in hock because of the shareholder package paralled up to see off Trafalgar almost two years ago. If the bid goes ahead CE will be geared up 186 per cent. A thought for Mr Lang to mull on over the weekend.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current price	Week's change	Notes
Racal Electronics	+25.00p	Profits warning
LucasVarley	+22.00p	Restructuring/write offs
British Gas	+21.00p	3p Take-over strong contract/damper plans
Dorling Kindersley	+20.00p	Strong pound hurt profits
Albright & Wilson	+16.00p	Customer loss/profit downgrading
Great Universal Stores	+15.00p	Disappointing figures
Grain Processing	+14.00p	Agreed bid from Headlam
Crown Products	+12.00p	Profit warning
Reed International	+10.76p	Reed Elsevier gloomy outlook

COMMODITIES

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
COCOA	9000	9100	9200	9300	9400	9500	9600	9700	9800	9900	10000	10100
COFFEE	1100	1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	1170	1180	1190	1200	1210
WHEAT	1200	1210	1220	1230	1240	1250	1260	1270	1280	1290	1300	1310
BARLEY	1300	1310	1320	1330	1340	1350	1360	1370	1380	1390	1400	1410

SPOT CFTW Europe (Grand delivery)

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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PARTY TIME 30

Those share giveaways are set to continue

WEEKEND MONEY

EARLY TO BED 31

A timely warning on capital gains



THE TIMES PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Are house prices set to blow a fuse in 1997?

Experts now believe that house prices will rise by 7 per cent next year. The statistics are becoming reminiscent of the Eighties property boom, with some predicting that the market will follow the same "boom and bust" pattern.

Steve Bell, chief economist at Morgan Grenfell, is one of the pessimists. Mr Bell's past record of property market predictions is good. He can claim to have been the first to forecast the effect of the ending of double mortgage tax relief in August 1988 which fuelled the scramble for homes that year. Soon afterwards, prices climbed by around 34 per cent a year, with one-year rises of 70 per cent in some areas.

Mr Bell believes that the house prices could begin to get out of control next year. It is expected that the current regional variations will continue in the new year, with the South and especially London experiencing the biggest rises and Yorkshire and East Anglia showing virtually no price increases at all.

David Gilchrist, Halifax general manager, said: "House prices in Greater London are suffering from double-digit inflation." House prices rose by 10.1 per cent on average with some parts of the capital showing even larger increases, according to the Land Registry. Prices in Hampstead have risen by 13 per cent this year, in Kingston by 10 per cent, while prices in Pimlico and Blackheath have risen by 2 per cent.

In the South East as a whole, house price inflation reached about 8 per cent in the third quarter. However, in East Anglia house price inflation reached only 2 per cent. Mr Gilchrist said: "East Anglia is a bit of a puzzle, but it rose very sharply during the previous house-price boom."

Mr Bell believes that these differences arise from economic factors. Prices in southern England are being buoyed by wage increases and rising employment. These improvements have yet to spread to some areas of the North. He said: "The South is further down the economic cycle than the North. Unemployment is

Caroline Merrell asks the experts if we really are seeing a return to the 1980s boom

lower and wage-rises have been higher. House prices are linked to wage rises. London prices are, in particular, being supported by large City bonuses. Late last month one prospective purchaser found himself gazzumped by another buyer willing to pay £90,000 more for a large Chiswick family house. Nationally, certain other types of property are not so sought after and little improvement is expected next year.

For example, many former council tenants who bought their flats under the right-to-buy legislation have found their homes are virtually unsaleable because societies refuse to lend against certain types of property. Another hindrance to a return to the booming house prices of the late Eighties is the fact that about 800,000 homeowners still have loans that are bigger than their property's value.

Each 1 per cent rise in house prices lifts 100,000 people out of the negative-equity trap. It would take an 8 per cent rise to clear everyone out entirely, in spite of the Chancellor's confidence at the time of last month's Budget. He said: "I hope that negative equity can soon be consigned to the economic history books. The housing recovery is firmly established."

This year, prices will have risen by an average 7 per cent, according to the Halifax Building Society, the largest rise for four years, but well

below the 13 per cent level reached in 1989. Prices rose for the fifth month in succession in November. This one-month rise of 0.5 per cent is less than a third of October's unprecedented rise of 1.7 per cent.

At the beginning of this year, both the Nationwide and the Halifax were predicting that prices would rise by 5 per cent. Both have now uprated their forecasts to 7 per cent, maintaining their record of fallibility on this issue.

Mr Gilchrist believes that the small increase in interest rates instigated by some lenders after the base-rate change six weeks ago will not have a strong effect. "This is a real recovery," Northern Rock, Coventry and Abbey National all raised their rates last week.

Abbey and Coventry increased their variable rate by 0.25 per cent, while Northern Rock went up 0.5 per cent. The latter increased its rates by double the base-rate rise because it felt that the Government was sure to raise rates after next week's meeting between the Chancellor and Bank of England. Abbey's rate now stands at 7.29 per cent for those with loans of under £60,000, and 7.24 per cent for those with loans of over £60,000. Northern Rock's rate is 7.49 per cent while Coventry's rate is 7.25 per cent.

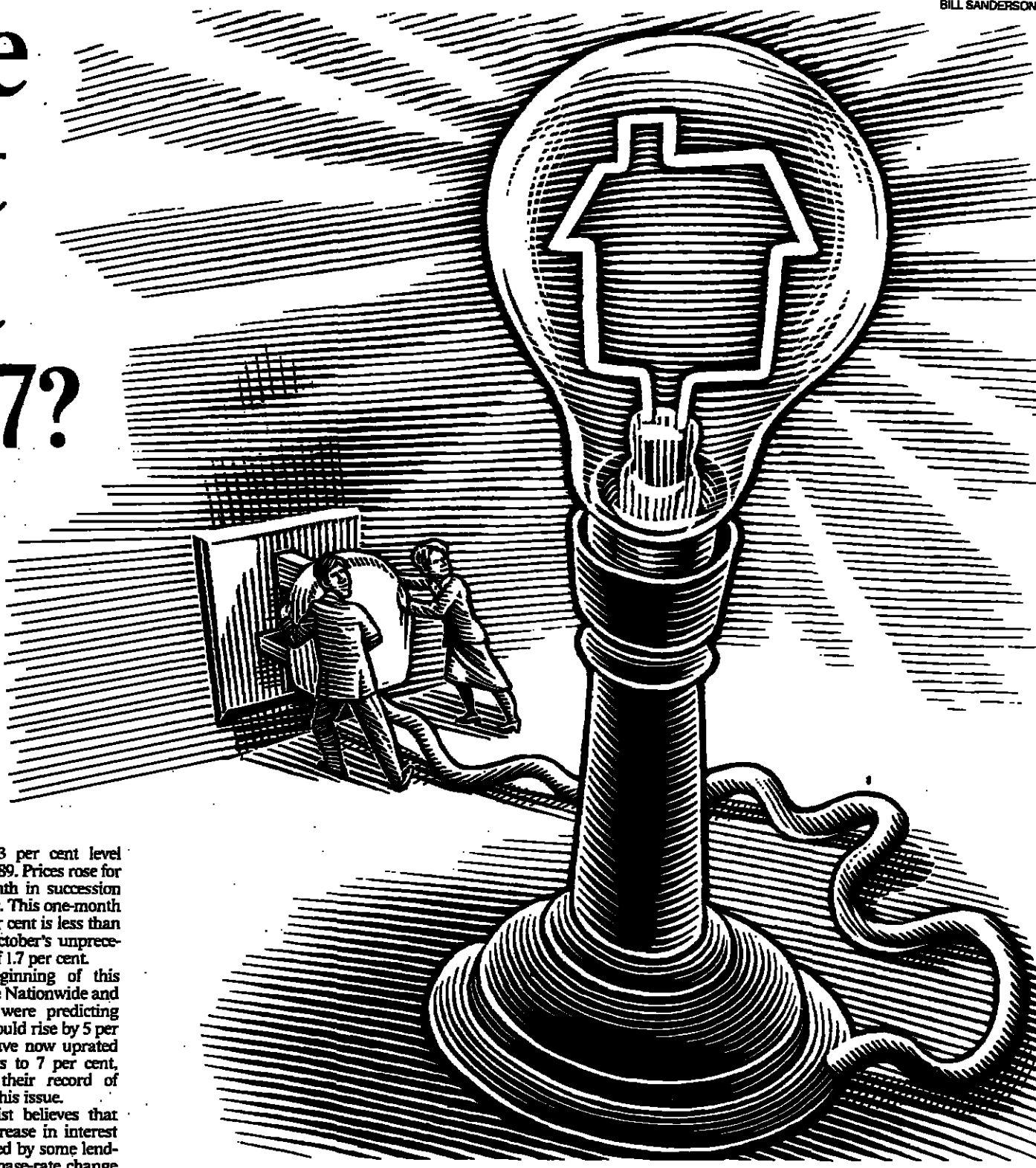
Mortgage brokers believe that those considering taking out a mortgage should look at a five-year capped or fixed-rate loan. They think that while these loans have interest rates above the current rate, they

represent a good deal because rates are almost certain to rise — they are already doing so.

Capped rates are where the interest rates are guaranteed not to go up above a certain amount. John Charcol recommends a five-year capped rate of 7.9 per cent from Coventry and a four-year 7.95 per cent capped rate from the Skipton.

However, the prospect of a general election means demand for houses could start to flatten next spring, according to Kevin Cannack, an analyst with Merrill Lynch. There are still fears that a socialist government will tax the rich and put up interest rates, both of which will affect the affordability of homes.

Rob Thomas, analyst with UBS, says Labour has reversed its plans to abolish mortgage interest tax relief which, although now worth little in cash terms, is still psychologically important to prospective buyers.



Halifax soothes anxious members

The Halifax Building Society, which is planning to become a bank, acted to reassure savers and borrowers yesterday after some qualifying members received letters telling them their balances were too low to merit a payout of free shares (Marianne Curphey writes).

The society, which intends to float on the stock market next June, said members with several accounts might receive more than one letter, despite efforts to "deduplicate" customers' records.

A Halifax Building Society spokesman said: "Some members have a number of accounts in slightly different names and we want to make sure that we contact everybody. We are sending out 13 million letters and some of them will go to the same house. If people who know they qualify have not received a letter by Wednesday, they should contact their local branch or the general freephone number."

The society is sending out letters to clarify individuals' eligibility for the free shares in the £10 billion conversion. The spokesman said: "We want people to check their details now, while there is time to sort things out. We need to ensure that the information is correct before we start sending out transfer documents and voting papers for the conversion."

Details of the conversion will arrive at qualifying members' homes next month.

The Halifax Building Society freephone number is 0800 388544.

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

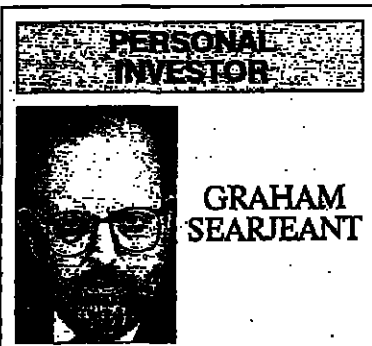
No exuberance over Gas

Irrational exuberance is in the eye of the beholder. If the average greybeard says young folks are overdoing it, that is sour grapes. A week ago, Robin Griffiths, chairman of HSBC, James Capel compared Wall Street to Old Man River. "Against all effort, reason and logic, the flow just goes on." It is different when the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, chief lock-keeper on Old Man River, raps market traders over the knuckles.

Alan Greenspan is famously inscrutable, well aware that screenwriters blink at his every nuance. When he mused publicly late on Thursday that 1987-style crashes need not be such a bad thing, he would not be shocked and horrified when markets reacted. Greenspanologists deduced that he wanted to avoid putting interest rates up but was embarrassed by inflation in financial markets and wanted to talk prices down.

In an accident of global markets, foreigners got the message first. They were not inclined to call the great man's bluff. Orders went out for Tupperware heavy corrections. Far East shares fell 3 per cent. The FT-SE 100 index fell 4 per cent before lunch. Tokyo, Hong Kong and London had caught a cold before Wall Street sneezed. As argued here a month ago, speculators have managed to inject instability back into financial markets. Tamed traders will want to play it for all it is worth.

Contagion aside, however, you could hardly accuse London of irrational exuberance. At Thursday's close, the FT-SE index was up 10 per cent in 1996, compared with a 25 per cent rise in New York's Dow Jones average. One crucial



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

reason is that the index of top British companies contains a large pack of dogs. Two of the mangiest barked this week. Hanson is halfway through a metamorphosis to which it is committed. British Gas will ask 1.7 million investors to sanction one in February.

Recent history should not give shareholders, big or small, any cause to have blind faith in their board. They should tell the directors to rethink when they have a clearer idea of what is going on. On known facts, the metamorphosis would turn British Gas into a slightly smaller, mangier, dog plus a puppy. Behind costly new corporate branding, the main point of the proposed demerger is to slash dividends. This might be in managers' interest, but not investors'.

Centrica, the much-depleted gas supply business, buttressed by the Morecambe Bay gas field, does not initially expect to pay dividends. No wonder. Computer chaos will make it hard to know its income even before competition in supplying households bites.

Centrica's future rests on sorting out the remaining 90 per cent of surplus fixed-price gas contracts the company was left with by its regulator's whims. That may mean handing over Morecambe. If this can be tidied up, Centrica would become a national distribution arm for a multi-utility, to be fought over by National Power and PowerGen. Until then, the shares are option money.

BG plc, the bigger dog, would combine the TransCo pipeline system, North Sea and foreign assets. When the plan was devised, TransCo looked safe. Ofgas thought otherwise. Unless the Monopolies Commission takes account of the 8 per cent yield on Gas shares and restores most Ofgas cuts, TransCo will become a semi-socialised utility. Shareholders would want to withdraw their equity as fast as possible. Yet the plan for BG plc would dedicate only TransCo's current cost profits to dividends, implying a cut from 14.5p to 6p and falling.

In market terms, it would make no sense to saddle a cash-hungry oil and gas business with a high-risk, high-yield utility. Investors would understandably value it on its worst aspects, demanding a high yield on a low dividend. If the utility were quoted separately, the high cost of capital forced on it by bad regulation would be clear. Investors could also insist on withdrawing cash. Dividends should at least be maintained in real terms, replacing equity with debt as required. This could not be done if TransCo were combined with the low-yield exploration business.

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Diane's dilemma

Sarah Jones on the benefits of transferring or freezing a pension



Freeze or transfer? With the culture of working for one company for life disappearing, more of us are moving on – through redundancy or choice – to another job and having to make that crucial decision about the company pension. Should you leave it where it is or take it with you to a new pension scheme. The decision is even trickier if your new employer does not offer a pension scheme, so your choice is between your old employer and a personal pension plan.

Diane Carter, of Solihull, writes: "I was made redundant after five years and was in a company pension scheme to which I contributed for over four years. I have now found another job but I am unsure about what to do with my pension. I would prefer to transfer it as I dislike my previous employers after the way I was treated. However, I have been told by a financial adviser at Bradford & Bingley that I cannot use my company pension to start up a personal pension plan and I can only transfer it to a new company pension. But my new employer does not run a scheme."

Weekend Money replies: The letter from the Bradford & Bingley adviser could have been better worded. When he wrote to tell you that your pension transfer could not be

used towards a personal pension plan, he meant that it was not permitted under PAB guidelines. You can indeed use it for a personal pension plan – or towards a new employer's scheme, a section 32 policy (a personal plan that purely houses the transfer value) or leave it where it is. However, the society has found that in most cases it is not worth transferring pensions worth less than £5,000 and therefore, since your transfer value is below that, the society cannot carry out a full analysis.

Your choice is between leaving your contributions in your old employer's scheme or taking a transfer value of £3,542 and starting a personal pension plan. Since the company pension is a final-salary scheme, you are choosing between certainty and speculation. With the final-salary scheme you are guaranteed a certain amount of pension. With a personal pension you speculate on doing better than the company scheme.

A pension left in a company scheme is not truly frozen. For a start it is protected from inflation. Your pension will rise yearly at the rate of inflation or between 3 per cent and 5 per cent whichever is the lower. Peter Timberlake, Legal & General pensions expert, said: "Many people act on an emotional basis. They think 'You made me redundant, so I'm going to take my pension



Diane Carter had only four years' pension contributions

away. Instead they should think 'You made me redundant so I'm going to make you pay me as much pension as possible'. Company schemes often come with discretionary benefits not included in the transfer value, and you must find out what they are."

You should also consider your own future and that of both your old and new companies. Is your new job temporary or long term; how long have you got to retirement; is there any chance that your new employer will start a company scheme; and how secure is your old firm?

If you had worked for a large, blue-chip company it would make sense to freeze your pension. But there is a possibility that the company you worked for could close or be taken over, especially as you have another 30 years before

retirement age. You would keep your pension rights but will have to work hard at keeping in touch. The Pension Tracing Agency in Newcastle helps pensioners who have lost contact with a previous employer's pension scheme.

The deciding factor will be the final reckoning: is the transfer value of your pension sufficient to buy in a personal pension plan at least those benefits that you would get in the company scheme? To work that out, you do need independent financial advice. After the mis-selling scandals, there are now tighter procedures for pension forecasts and the figures should show you whether it is worth transferring. If you can afford £60-£100 an hour, you can use the Society of Pension Consultants, Ludgate House, Ludgate Circus, London EC4A 2AB (0171 353 1689).

Care cover back on the agenda

Long-term care, ignored in the Budget, could yet be a decisive factor in the next election. A recent survey found two-thirds of adults in their fifties said the policies of the political parties for funding care for the elderly would influence their votes in 1997. The Government is expected to produce two draft Bills next year, one on long-term care insurance policies, the other on partnership schemes where the State rewards the individual for making provision for long-term care by protecting more of their assets.

But people are not waiting and are buying insurance now to cover cost of care should they become incapable of "activities of daily living", such as washing and feeding themselves. Single premium policies are more popular among people near retirement than regular premiums, which they fear they may not be able to keep up in future. But many do not want to lose a lump sum permanently in case they need it or die without needing care. One product that is becoming more popular is investment-linked schemes.

With these, a lump sum is put in an investment fund from which regular premiums are deducted to fund a long-term care policy. These products have a cash-in value and if the policyholder dies without needing care, any residual value can be passed to beneficiaries.

At present only a few companies offer these products but at least two new entrants are expected in 1997. The first to launch a product two years ago was Scottish Amicable European. Its success in attracting £85 million has encouraged others. This year Irish Life International and PPP have launched products, while Skandia Life is to launch a scheme in the new year. In order to make the products tax efficient and more affordable, all of the companies apart from PPP are situated offshore. Scottish Amicable European and Irish Life International are both based in Dublin, while Skandia's new product will be sold from the Isle of Man.

But not all advisers are happy with

these products. Martin Telling of the Falcon Group in Bristol, a specialist long-term care insurance adviser who also heads a working group on the subject for the Independent Financial Adviser Association, said: "The fact that most of these products are sold by offshore companies is cause for concern. If the tax regime changes under a Labour Government, it will alter costs within the products."

He added that people should look critically at the cover provided. "Scottish Amicable's plan, for example, does not at present give people access to any counselling or help with arranging care if it becomes necessary as a number of other providers do. I believe this is a very important part of any long-term care insurance package as elderly people often need assistance at this difficult time." He is happier with PPP's Lifetime Care Bond where a healthy man of 65 can buy cover for £1,000 a month care fees for a £22,500 investment.

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Life insurers tighten up on ME claims

Gavin Lumsden says medical uncertainty has hit payments

An increasing number of people suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) are encountering problems with their life insurers, according to the ME Association. This week it was disclosed that the Duchess of Kent was among the victims and had been advised by her doctors to cut back on her commitments.

More than 150,000 people are estimated to have developed ME in this country after catching a viral infection after prolonged fatigue. In addition to debilitating muscle pain and tiredness, sufferers experience insomnia and acute difficulties with concentration and comprehension. The Royal College of Physicians reckons that up to a million people could suffer from CFS.

Doctors, however, are divided as to whether either CFS or ME are specific illnesses or just a collection of symptoms in which fatigue dominates. They also disagree over whether the roots are mental or physiological.

The passions behind the debate exploded into public in

August when Dr Thomas Stuttaford of *The Times* and Esther Rantzen, the television presenter, engaged in an ill-tempered television debate over whether ME was a clinical or an imagined condition.

The RCP has since completed a study into CFS, which, though authoritative, was unable to make definitive conclusions about its nature.

Such uncertainty has caused CFS sufferers problems in the past when they have tried to claim on permanent health insurance policies. Numerous cases arose, three years ago when some insurers either refused to recognise CFS as an illness or argued that its symptoms predated the policies being taken out.

Charles Shepherd, medical director at the ME Association, says that, after a lull, UK insurers are picking up on a trend in the US to tighten up on the large number of claims from CFS sufferers. Those

who do have problems with their PHI policies should go through their insurer's internal appeals procedure. If this fails to satisfy, Dr Shepherd advises contacting the insurance ombudsman and obtaining a medical report from a consultant experienced in CFS before taking legal advice.

People considering taking out a PHI policy should avoid those that exclude mental illness, as this will inevitably cause them problems if they develop CFS.

This is graphically illustrated by the case of Mary Baker, a 46-year-old CFS sufferer from New Zealand, who is fighting Zurich Life, the Swiss company, after it stopped paying out on her PHI policy. Its contract contains a clause that stops payments after two years if the policyholder's inability to work is related to a mental or nervous disorder.

Ms Baker was working as a life insurance broker at the US Air Force base in Aviano, Italy, when she decided to buy a PHI policy from Europa IMG, a financial adviser based in Horsham, West Sussex, which has since been renamed Goodhealth.

The policy, which was underwritten by Zurich Life in London, guaranteed to pay her NZ\$24,000 a year in quarterly instalments if she became disabled. At the end of 1993, while working as a volunteer in Croatia, she collapsed with physical exhaustion, and, on returning to Aviano was diagnosed with CFS.

Unable to work she sent off her claim to Europa. She said: "I was a bit concerned as I was aware that some doctors do not accept it as a condition, but Zurich Life accepted its liability."

Her pleasure was short-lived, she says, as, at the end of each subsequent quarter, the company would ask for more medical information which caused delays in payment.

In July 1995 she underwent



Clare Francis, author and round-the-world yachtswoman, suffered from ME and became a fundraiser for the illness

a five-day hospital examination, which confirmed her condition was not depression. When the following payment was again delayed she complained to the Association of British Insurers (ABI). The ABI contacted Zurich Life and Ms Baker received her cheque

a week later. Meanwhile, her condition worsened, she was advised to return to New Zealand where she could have the support of her family. Shortly afterwards the company said it required an independent medical examination, insisting this was

done in Switzerland. Ms Baker agreed and appointments were made before she flew home. Unfortunately, days before she was due to fly to Switzerland, she was taken to hospital where she had a hysterectomy.

Since then Zurich Life has argued for the first time that CFS is a mental illness and therefore Ms Baker does not qualify under the policy. It has also said that if she was fit enough to fly, she could work. Ms Baker contests these points. Zurich Life refused to comment.

Most of us realise that we can no longer rely on the benefit system to maintain our standard of living should we be unlucky enough to fall ill and have to leave work.

A type of insurance policy called permanent health insurance was developed with this in mind.

As the name suggests, it provides cover should you fall ill and not be able to work, either permanently or temporarily. The idea is a good one, but the problem is that some of the providers are balking at paying out when customers make a claim.

They have set up numerous kinds of testing to catch out the shirkers. But pressure groups say these tests can be twisted to serve the purposes of the provider.

Earlier this year Weekend Money featured the case of Robert Napier who suffered from a rheumatic illness. He has been racked with pain, and found it difficult to sleep and now uses a wheelchair for long distances.

He claimed on his permanent health insurance policy ten years ago, but since then, Unum, his insurer, has challenged his illness despite the fact that his GP pronounced him an invalid.

Two years ago the company stopped paying altogether, relying on a report from a specialist who said that Mr Napier, now 50, had grossly exaggerated his disability.

But the High Court found that Mr Napier's case was perfectly genuine and that his payments of 60 per cent of his former salary of £62,500 should be reinstated. The case showed how insurers are prepared to challenge a customer even in the face of conflicting medical reports.

What is permanent health insurance?

It is insurance that replaces your income. If you are unable to work for a set time your policy will pay a percentage of what you would normally expect to earn until you are well again.

The rules changed in April and all payments are now tax-free. The insurance company will make an open commitment to pay part of your salary until your planned retirement age if necessary.

The maximum payout will be three quarters of gross earnings. Illnesses not covered include Aids, self-inflicted injuries and drugs not prescribed by doctors. Cheaper policies may not include ME or mental illness. Dangerous pastimes such as sky diving may not be covered or you may have to pay a higher premium.

Some policies may pay out if you can only return to work part-time but you will have to pay extra for these. Some policies can be inflation-linked.

Why would I want a PHI policy?

More than one million people in Britain have been off work through sickness or disability for more than six months. A further

600,000 have been off for more than three years.

Benefits will not replace your salary: a family of four has to get by on just over £100 a week if the breadwinner is off work for more than six months.

How do I obtain permanent health insurance?

First check if you are insured under your employer's scheme. If you have a company pension, you may also have PHI.

If not, you can purchase an individual policy after consulting an independent insurance broker (You will find a list from BIIA).

The problem with employers' schemes is that you have to be employed to receive permanent health insurance payments. So, if you become too ill to work and start receiving payments and you are then fired or made redundant as a result of your illness, your payments will stop. This is because you are no longer employed.

What small print clauses should I look out for?

Ensure that the policy provides for "inability by reason of sickness to follow his or her occupation". Some policies will now say that you have to be unable to follow any profession or occupation not just your own. This means doctors, for example, have been turned down if they can still do clerical work.

Will I have to wait before I receive payments?

Yes, all PHI schemes have a waiting period before you can claim. This is usually between 13 and 102 weeks, so check the conditions before you sign up. Generally, the longer the waiting period, the cheaper the cover. So weigh the savings up against the wait period. Waiting over six months may be counterproductive.

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Rising expectations: housebuilders are looking to a further improvement in the new homes market but there are hurdles to be overcome

Building on recovery mood

The galloping recovery in the housing market is giving hope to beleaguered housebuilders, among the hardest-hit sector in the long recession. But investors should remain cautious as many dangers threaten to ambush the industry.

Last week the Nationwide Building Society reported that house prices rose by nearly 9 per cent over the past year, and this week the Halifax Building Society confirmed the upward trend, with a slightly lower figure of 7.7 per cent for the year to November.

By contrast the prices of new homes have fallen by 1.3 per cent over the same period.

Roger Humber, director of the House-Builders' Federation, says: "Although we are seeing an increase in volumes throughout the UK, price increases are limited to London and the South East. There is still not much joy for the South West or anywhere north of Northampton."

Scott Fulton, building analyst at Merrill Lynch, the merchant bank, says share prices of housebuilding firms have been falling over the past six months, in spite of more optimistic



growth forecasts. They are now trading a near 10 per cent discount to the rest of the market.

Whether this presents a buying opportunity for gamble-happy investors depends on housebuilders' ability to leap several looming hurdles. The first relates to interest rates. Higher base rates mean more expensive mortgages and a brake on the housing market recovery. Hopes that new houses, which normally represent around 10 per cent of all housing transactions, could ride on the back of the revival in second-hand house

market may be shortlived. A second hurdle is the price of land. It is in shorter supply now than in the early Eighties, so prices are likely to increase faster than house prices. The shortage is particularly acute in London and the South East, where the recovery is strongest.

Housebuilders have already seen 50 per cent price increases in some cases. Many firms are also experiencing long delays in obtaining planning permission from local councils even for land they already own.

A third hurdle is spiralling production costs. A nationwide skills shortage, thanks to the ravages of the recession, at a time of increasing demand, will push wage costs up. Building material suppliers will also be looking to charge more.

Mr Fulton sums up: "House price inflation should generate greater volume in the new houses, so 1997 presents a rosy picture. But housebuilders will enjoy only a short time in the sun. This is the right time to buy on a short-term view." He recommends Berkeley Group, the executive home specialist, which is concentrated

in the South East where the recovery is strongest. Astute timing of land sales and purchases has contributed to a strong balance sheet.

The big volume builders, Barratt and Persimmon, are also recommended because of their impressive land banks. Barratt, trading at a 15 per cent discount to the rest of the market, looks good value.

Steve Charnock, building analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, the stockbroker, believes the medium-sized builders, such as Bellway, will have the flexibility to adapt quickly to the volatile market. Mr Humber at HBF is hopeful that rising disposable income, improved job security and the recent relatively benign Budget will encourage continued growth in the new house market, despite the caveats outlined above. He expects around 155,000 new homes to be built next year, compared with an estimated 140,000 this year.

But investors will need particularly clear crystal balls to make the right investment decisions in such a capricious climate.

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each month in personal
equity plan regular savings
schemes. Monthly contribu-
tions to these can be as little as
£20. About 25 per cent of PEP
investors invest via regular
savings. This percentage is

continuing to rise with the
arrival of mass-market provid-
ers such as Direct Line.

The main benefit of
the schemes is pound-cost aver-
aging: when markets are falling,
your monthly contribution buys
more units or shares in the trust,
cutting the average cost of

acquiring your investment.
However, gains depend on the
underlying performance of
the investment. Many act as if
they were putting money in a
long-term building society ac-
count. They pay in year after
year, without reviewing how
their savings are doing in re-

lation to other plans.

Pep savings schemes also
pay different yields and cost
different amounts, and some
have early-encashment pen-
alties. Initial charges vary be-
tween nothing on HSBC's and
Virgin's to 6 per cent on Eagle
Star's general Pep. Annual
management charges on plans
range from nil to 1.5 per cent.
NatWest's Pep savings plans
carry no annual management
charge but a high initial
charge, while Morgan Gren-
fell's Pep savings plans bear a
1.5 per cent annual charge.

Some Pep savings schemes
are geared towards growth and
some towards income. Some of
the newer corporate bond Peps
carry high yields of 7 to 8 per
cent. Because the annual
management charge is usually tak-
en out of income generated,
find out the size of the charge. It
is also necessary to look at
whether penalties are applied if
a savings plan is encashed
early.

According to a survey by
Planned Savings magazine,
the top-performing Pep sav-
ings plans over the past five
years were from Hill Samuel,
Jupiter, Invesco, Old Mutual
and Garmore. A sum of £100
a month put in Hill Samuel's
UK Emerging Companies
Trust would now be worth
£11,505 on a total investment of
£6,000. The same monthly
investment in Jupiter's Euro-
pean and Income Pep savings
plans would be worth £11,437
and £10,960, respectively. The
same investment in Invesco's
UK smaller companies trust
and European smaller com-
panies trust would be worth
£10,819 and £10,770.

Putting a £6,000 lump sum
in the Hill Samuel trust five
years ago would have pro-
duced £19,529 at the start of
October this year. A £6,000
lump in Jupiter's Income fund
would have produced £17,443.

The top lump sum trust may
not be the top savings scheme.
Thorntons UK Smaller Com-
panies fund is the eighth-best
unit trust Pep for a lump sum,
but sixteenth when regular
savings are considered.

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TT07/12/96

Sarah Jones takes a seasonal look at a risk-free investment

Take Tessa to the party for that extra sparkle

Normally a quiet time for Tessa, this year it looks as if there may be a little more sparkle to her Christmas. With talk of interest rate rises, competition could once again hot up among Tessa providers.

"When the move on savers' rates comes, we should start to see a divergence in Tessa rates," says Alastair Altham of Johnson Fry Asset Managers. "Where providers are keen to get new depositors, and tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) are a good way of doing that, they are likely to raise their rates. Most Tessas are taken out between January and April in anticipation of the end of the tax year."

Investors fail to shop around, especially for follow-on Tessas, but there are attractive rates available. Moreover last time round the best returns came from the smaller building societies — in other words, from those providers most likely to be taken over or merged over the next five years, giving you the chance of an extra merger bonus from your Tessa. Possible flotation

appears in the best buy charts. For a follow-on Tessa, for example, National Counties is offering a variable 7.2 per cent, the Marsden a variable 7 per cent and the West Bromwich 7.45 per cent fixed.

The Inflation Beater Tessa from the society most rumoured for flotation, Birmingham Midshires, guarantees to be 3 per cent above the retail price index and is currently at 7 per cent. Minimum deposit is £1,000 and it is also available as a first Tessa.

Other first Tessas include West Bromwich's variable 7 per cent and 6.8 per cent from both Market Harborough and the Principality. For fixed first Tessas, Yorkshire is paying 7.3 per cent and Birmingham Midshires 7.05 per cent.

With expectations of base-rate rises, savers may assume that fixed rates should be avoided. Not so, says Mr Altham. "Don't be bamboozled by talk of short-term rates rising. Long-term rates in the money markets have not changed dramatically so many fixed rates still look good and won't necessarily rise as obviously as variable Tessas."

However fixed rates should only be for those who want absolute security, and can tie themselves in for five years. The best option is to go for a variable rate that has low penalties for early exit, so you can move providers if you see a more competitive rate.

Tessas are still the most tax-efficient risk-free product on offer from the bank or building society. However the amounts you can invest are limited: if it is your first Tessa you can save up to £3,000 in the first year and £1,800 in each of the next four years up to the maximum £9,000. Some first Tessas demand the full £9,000, which is put into a feeder account.

If it is your second Tessa, you can put in all of the capital saved — but not the tax-free interest earned — from your first Tessa. But you have only six months from the maturity date of your first Tessa to decide which new one to go for. If your maturity date is pending, you should be able to find a decent follow-on rate over the coming months.

After hinting at Christmas cheer for savers, providers are looking more like Scrooge than Santa. There will be no quarter of a per cent rise across the board for savers, as there has been a wholesale rise for borrowers. Instead the promised increases will be on selected savings products and of a varying amount. Moreover, with lenders quick to announce mortgage changes, savers are kept hanging on for news.

The average savings rate rise at Northern Rock, for example, will be 0.3 per cent, although the mortgage rate has gone up 0.5 per cent. It is also likely that only the top tiers of the postal accounts — the product by which Northern Rock does most of its fighting for new customers — will be touched.

The Coventry has raised its mortgage rate 0.25 per cent, but has remarkably little information on savings rates. A spokeswoman says: "Rates will go up on January 1, but we need to see what happens in the market place before we decide which products will be affected." Abbey National has raised its

mortgage rate 0.25 per cent. Savings rates are to go up from 0.05 per cent to 0.25 per cent, though some fixed-rate bonds will rise 0.35 per cent.

"It is not as simple as putting up one mortgage rate. Different products have different competitive strings attached to them," says an Abbey spokesman. "We have to look at the market and if a product is already competitive, it will not rise so much."

The Abbey will be changing its rates for savers with effect from January 1.

Rates on the Abbey Instant Saver account currently range from 0.50 per cent to 3.50 per cent. From the beginning of next year, they will range from 0.50 per cent to 3.65 per cent, hardly leaving savers better off at all.

For example, a balance of £5,000 currently earns 2.70 per cent, which will be raised to 2.75 per cent. Investment Account rates will be increased from between 3 per cent to 4.75 per cent to between 3.05 per cent to 5 per cent.



Don't get carried away, but competition is hotting up among the Tessa providers

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Variable Rate TESSAs	Min Deposit	Rate %	Transfer Terms			
National Counties BS 01372 747771	9,000	7.20	90 day loss of interest			
Allied Trust Bank 0171 626 0579	9,000	7.00	2 months notice plus £25 fee			
Marsden BS 01282 440500	- 10	7.00	30 day notice plus £25 fee			
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 717505	9,000	7.00	plus £50 fee			
Ulster Bank (NI) 01222 898182	9,000	7.00	£40 fee			
Birmingham Midshires BS 0845 727271	£1,000 A	7.00	180 day loss of interest			
West Bromwich BS 0121 607 2415	£250	7.00	28 day notice plus £30 fee			
Fixed Rate TESSAs						
Variable Rate TESSAs	Min Deposit	Rate%	Transfer Terms			
Julien Hodge Bank 01222 220000	£3,000	8.00 F	30 day notice + 180 day loss of interest			
San Building Corp. 01458 744626	£3,000	7.50 F	180 day notice + 180 day loss of interest			
MidWest Bank 0800 200400	£5,000	7.45 F	180 day loss of interest			
West Bromwich BS 0121 6072415	£3,000 C	7.45 F	28 day notice + 180 day loss of interest			
Yorkshire BS 0800 370900	£9,000	7.30 F	Up to 180 day loss of interest			
Lewis & Halsey BS 0113 255777	£3,000	7.20 FD	180 day loss of interest			
Escalator TESSAs						
Variable Rate TESSAs	Min Deposit	1st Yr % Fixed	2nd Yr % Fixed	3rd Yr % Fixed	4th Yr % Fixed	5th Yr % Fixed
Woodwich BS 0800 222200	£500 C	5.75	6.50	7.00	8.00	9.00
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 121115	£9,000 E	6.50	7.50	8.50	9.50	10.50
<p>A Inflation based TESSAs. Guaranteed 3 per cent above RPI</p> <p>B Fixed CAR rate, interest paid quarterly. No further additions</p> <p>C Padded additions not permitted</p> <p>D Rate rises to 7.40 per cent at £9,000</p> <p>E Transfers on 3 day notice plus a minimum 30 day loss of interest. Interest not compounded.</p>						

Source: Moneyfacts

A Inflation Beater TESSA. Guaranteed 3 per cent above RPI.
B Fixed CAR rate, interest paid quarterly. No further additions.
C Further additions not permitted.
D Rate rises to 7.40 per cent at £9,000.
E Transfers on 5 day notice plus a minimum 30 day loss of interest. Interest not compounded.

Source: Moneyfacts

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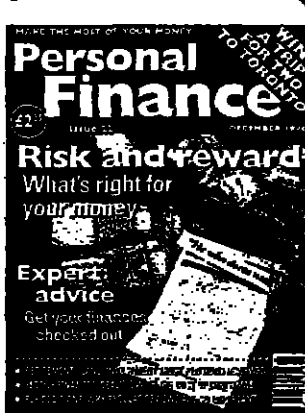
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Beginner's guide to world of Peps

A new booklet, *An Introduction to Peps*, by Roger Anderson and Joanna Slaughter and sponsored by the Prudential, provides a simple explanation of how personal equity plans work and for which types of investors they are suitable. There are sections on the different types of plan and how to transfer your investment to another manager if you are dissatisfied with the performance of your current plan. For a free copy, ring 0800 000000 Mon to Fri 8am-5pm, weekends 10am-2pm.

■ PUTTING a child through higher education can cost as much as £17,400. But few families make provision for this bill, although it is now proposed that the maintenance grant be entirely replaced with a system of loans. Barclays has produced a guide to help parents to invest. For a free copy, ring 0800 374373.

■ BECAUSE of the increase in the tax levied on insurance, travel insurance premiums are likely to rise next year by up to 20 per cent. By taking out an annual travel insurance policy before December 31, travellers will be able to avoid these price increases for the next 12 months.

Wexas Travel is offering to its members a policy of world-wide travel, unlimited trips abroad of up to 31 days and also winter sports for £69 or £57 per person for a couple. Cover for longer trips (up to ten weeks) is available for £99. Membership of Wexas starts at £39.50 per year and includes commission-free travel cheques plus free subscription to *Traveller* magazine. Call 0171-589 3315.

ANNE ASHWORTH AND LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at December 5, 1996

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
1,000	Premium Life	4.60
10,000	Premium Life	5.80
20,000	Premium Life	6.00
50,000	Premium Life	6.10
2 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.30
10,000	Premium Life	6.05
20,000	Premium Life	6.25
50,000	Premium Life	6.30
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.60
10,000	Premium Life	6.20
20,000	Premium Life	6.35
50,000	Premium Life	6.40
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.60
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.35
5 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.90
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.45

Source: Chamberlain de Brook 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers' BS 01202 887171	Bullion	Instant	£500	4.80 % Yr
Scarborough BS 0500 550578	Inst by Post	Postal	£5,000	5.50 % Yr
Bristol & West BS 0800 801109	Inst Acc Post	Postal	£10,000	5.85 % Yr
Bristol & West BS 0800 801109	Inst Acc Post	Postal	£25,000	6.05 % Yr

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Cheltenham & Glos 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 days	£100	5.50 % Yr
Leopold J & Sons 0171 5993233	40 Day Notice	40 days	£10,000	6.22 % Yr
Nat Counties BS 01772 747771	90 day	90 days	£20,000	6.30 % Yr
Northern Rock 0500 550500	The Promise	31.12.98p	£10,000	6.60 % Yr

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	5 year	£8,575	7.50 % F/Yr	
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	5 year	£1,000	7.45 % F/Yr	
Birmingham Midshires BS 0845 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.00 % F/Yr	
West Bromwich BS 0950 143688	5 year	£250	7.00 % F/Yr	

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.84%NC	7.90%N	N/A
Capital One Bank 0800 699000	Visa	0.80%NC	9.90%N	N/A
Robert Fleming 0588 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92%NC	11.50%N	N/A

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%+1	£112.88	£102.59
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.78	£104.46
Direct Line 0141 2469568	14.80%+1	£114.25	£102.46

Nb. C = no interest free period, F = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rates applies if insurance not arranged, N = introductory rate for a limited period, OM = interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only.

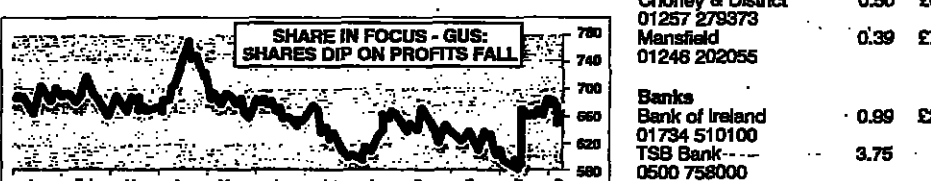
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Source: Moneyfacts, The Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (1992-500 677)

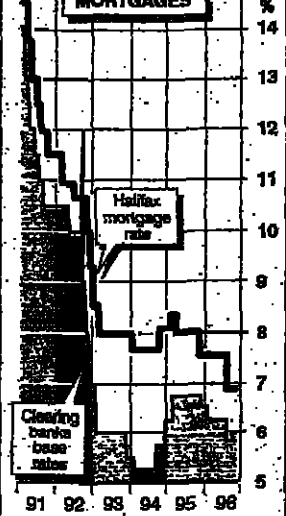
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Bradford & Bingley 11.025%	105.04	8.914	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.025%	105.04	8.914	100.17	1,000
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Bradford & Bingley 11.025%	105.04	8.914	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.025%	105.04	8.914	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.025%	105.04	8.914	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.025%	105.04	8.914	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.025%	105.04	8.914	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.025%	105.04	8.914	100.17	1,000

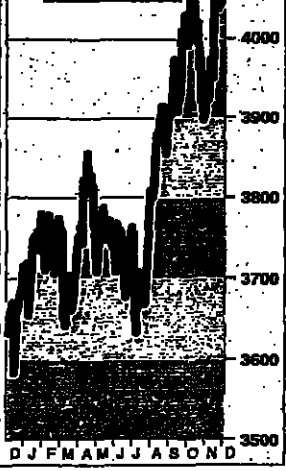
FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire 28/09/27/03/01/583%	107.63	100.00	1,000	
First Nat 20/09/20/03/4.8750%	101.63	100.00	1,000	



BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX



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For and against the A&L stance

From Mr Matt Lee
Sir, I would like to offer some support for the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, as I believe a lot of recent criticism is unfair. How people can say that the disabled are being discriminated against is ludicrous, this only occurs when the first name is that of a carer who possesses an account themselves and certainly these cases should receive attention from the society, but take note there are also others in this situation, therefore it can't, by definition, be discrimination.

As for the individuals who
claim they should receive
more, they should go back to
university school. The society
made it very clear that the
habe distribution plans were
decided and just as any
other investment it was a
gamble. It is a loss of one vote
which is being compensated
and to this end the individuals
concerned may vote against
the conversion or vote for it
and accept one bonus.

Yours faithfully,
JATT LEE,
2 Taft Hall,
Campaign,
Chicago
Illinois 60620, United States.

Firm Mr G. Nicholson
S: Mr Mountain (Free-
shares row deepens, Novem-
ber 9) should realise all meth-
ods of keeping savings carry a
risk. Bank notes hidden under
floorboards will be eaten away
by inflation, if not by mice.
Shares can lose part or all of
their value, and returns on all
other investments are almost
certain to be less than could
have been earned elsewhere.

for a large sum in a build-
insociety account to perform
w, not only must the society
overt in the short term, but
it also must pay variable
buses which are sufficiently
gduated to reflect the large
amout on deposit. Even now
who not know if this will be
th case with the Halifax

Ir Mountain took something of a gamble in leaving \$10,000 plus with the A&L, hoping that the bonus payout would more than compensate for the relatively low rate of interest he was getting. If he backed the wrong horse he had only himself to blame.

Yrs faithfully,
COFFREY NICHOLSON.
9 Broadbottom Road,
Mtram, Cheshire.

In Mr D.B. Marchant
 S. My wife and I, as regular
 members with the A&T, since
 19. feel similarly aggrieved
 Diane Bay (What a differ-
 ence a day makes, November
 05 we allowed our balance to
 go to £93.61 between Sep-
 tember 30 and October 20.
 Our account normally holds
 between £1,000 and £2,000.
 My twice has it dropped
 low £100 – once in 1993 and
 above. So now we are not
 only deprived of a vote but
 so free shares. If interest had
 been added, we would proba-
 bly have been OK. We feel the
 matter staff should have
 anticipated the consequences
 of our withdrawal.
 Yours faithfully,
ENNIS MARCHANT,
 Freeman Way,
 100m, Leicestershire

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

The iniquities of student grant calculations

From Mr J. Horwood
Sir, I was very interested to read your article (Call for less tax on family values, November 9) showing that remaining married is a severe disadvantage to one's tax health.

This is true, but I would point out that the disadvantages imposed by the national tax system pale into insignificance when compared with the disadvantages suffered by a married couple, whose children attend university and who are seeking financial support from their local authority.¹ Essentially, the grossly unfair rule is that the income of step parents and the contributions made by a divorced (absent) parent are not taken into account when assessing the grants available to university students.

This leads to the most blatantly inequitable situations, for example a woman not working, and therefore with no apparent income of her own, whose two children are at university, married to a man with a very high income, is assessed as having zero income and therefore both the children receive full local authority grants.

The minimum that this costs the local authority is £3,420 pa, and if the students are medical students on clinical work, it could well cost the local authority upward of £7,000 pa. The new husband's income may well be such that he can afford to give both his

Victim support

From Mr A.G. Phillips
Sir, All credit to Anne Ashworth (Contemptible tendency to blame victims, November 16) for her pressing in her column for action for the victims of pensions mis-selling.

There has long been a tendency to investigate crimes which involve even modest violence with more vigour than those which "merely" result in the victims incurring financial loss.

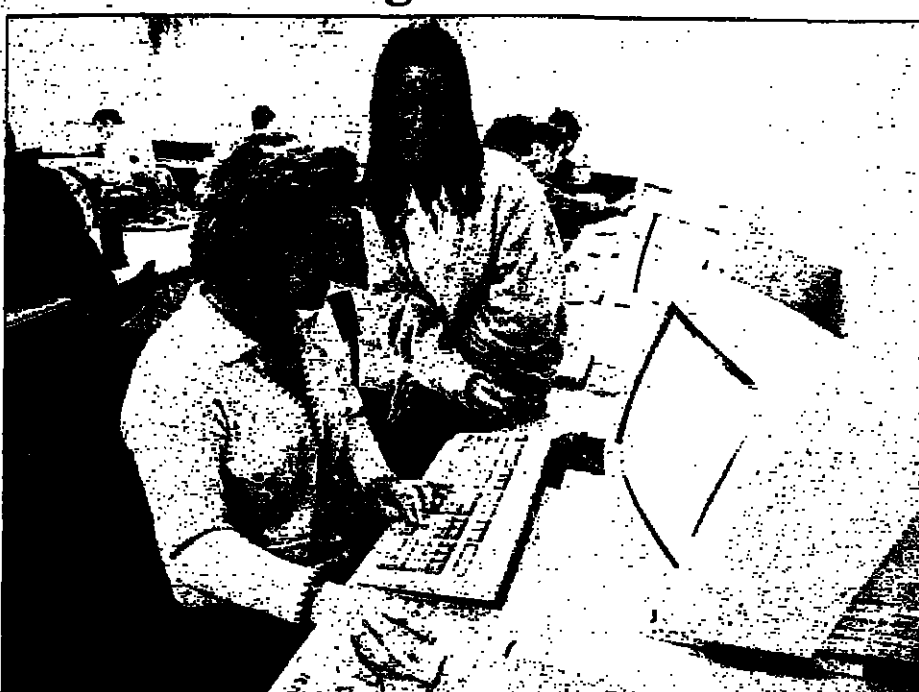
Even then, the emphasis is on the perpetrator of the crime. The situation with accidents is even worse.

To the best of my knowledge, there are still many cases of the victims of air disasters which occurred in the 1980s, of coach crashes almost as long ago and of many other accidents at football stadiums and on the roads, where liability has been challenged, where the victims have yet to receive any kind of compensation at all.

Not only have they suffered personal loss, the loss of a breadwinner and possibly trauma as well, but continue to be denied any financial support.

And of course, we all pay for losses resulting from computer fraud, the full extent of which is not declared, or even not detected, by large companies.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY PHILLIPS.
52 Upper Street,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.



Many parents are outraged at the way some people cynically exploit grants for students

step children brand new cars
for their 18th birthday
presents

At the very least, this deprives the local authority's

education budget of funds which could well be spent on much more deserving targets. Moreover, since the recipients of this largesse tend to crowd about it to those of us unfortunate enough to have remained married and, therefore, required to pay through the nose

for our children at university in spite of a relatively modest income, it gives rise to understandable resentment.

I cannot believe that it is difficult for local authorities to require information about the income of both partners, where someone has remarried, or indeed, is living in a stable relationship or to require information about the financial or "in kind" contributions made by an absent,

divorced or separated partner in order to assess parental contributions to the support of university students.

Until this is done, the entire system will continue to be an inequitable farce, and local authorities will be paying out enormous sums of money to undeserving recipients.

Yours faithfully,
J. HORWOOD,
76 Copers Cope Road,
Beckenham, Kent.

Singles plea

From Ms A. Le Cornu
Sir, As a single person recently

returned to the UK and who finds payment of rent an excessively large chunk of her salary, yet who prefers not to have to share, I write to the local housing authority. Elizabeth Balsom, letter 17, and the single girl, November 23, where she brings attention to the fact that single people must bear 100 per cent of many costs alone. Any proposal by whatever government to raise tax for those living alone will be a serious hardship in a society which increasingly discriminates against singles – to the extent that even holidays demand a 'single' (land prohibitive) supplement. I prefer not to sleep with a complete stranger; whether male or female is not usually specified. I plead for more awareness of the true hardships faced by many people living alone.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON LE CORNU,
22 Joel Street,
Northwood Hills, Middlesex.

Bad news for those awaiting Revenue refunds with interest



From Mr. L. J. How.

Sir, I am sorry to inform Mr Abbott (Letters, November 30) and any other readers hoping to obtain 6.25 per cent interest tax-free from the Revenue by overpaying their taxes, that the rules are changed, owing to the

Any payment of tax above that demanded will not qualify for interest on repayment. Under the new self-assessment, demands are based on the previous year's tax, so refunds are only

likely to arise to those with falling incomes or who, for instance, ceased trading the previous year. (They still get demands). On the other hand, interest charges and surcharges await those who underpay "on account" without due reason, among which, shortage of money is not included. The taxpayer cannot win.

Yours faithfully,
L.J. HOW,
(Ex-Inspector of Taxes),
13 Wood Street, Penarth.

[illegible]

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Double trouble

From Mrs. J. Davies
Sir, I was intrigued to read (Hotel shares are still hot property, November 30) that Stakis Hotels is buying Metro-pole Hotels for £327 million. Would Stakis have done better to spend a fraction of this sum incorporating a few single rooms into their new hotels?

We have been told the Bath hotel has no single rooms. Clever and then you charge extra for any single person who has to sleep in a double room. Is there no discrimination or exploitation here?

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH DAVIES,
43 Parkwood Road,
Tavistock, Devon.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

[illegible]

Early losses almost halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

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100	95	100	95	0	0	100

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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100	95	100	95	0	0	100

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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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100	95	100	95	0	0	100

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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MEDIA

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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100	95	100	95	0	0	100

OTHER FINANCIAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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100	95	100	95	0	0	100

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

RETAILERS, FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

RETAILERS, GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

SUPPORT SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

TEXTILES & APPAREL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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100	95	100	95	0	0	100

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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100	95	100	95	0	0	100

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

UNLISTED

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

INDEX-LINKED (on proposed inflation cut)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

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100	95	100	95	0	0	100
100	95	100	95	0	0	100

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BASKETBALL: HIS AIRNESS STILL RULES THE HOOPS AS HIS STAR FADES AT BOX OFFICE

Jordan's enterprise rockets on

Oliver Holt, in Milwaukee, encounters a basketball legend on top of his game

The defeat that Michael Jordan had been fearing was dignified when it came. There was comfort in the fact that the leading position, that he had occupied for so long, had been ceded to a worthy and popular rival. It was there in black and white, anyway: *Space Jam*, the film in which he co-stars alongside Bugs Bunny, has fallen behind *First Contact*, the new Star Trek film, at the top of the American box office charts.

Space Jam, of course, has been slated by the critics for the commercial tosh it undoubtedly is, but the film, which will push Jordan's earnings next year to more than \$100 million (about £62 million), does have one unwittingly redeeming feature. For followers of the man who has dominated the game of basketball for the past six years and who shows no signs of releasing his grip, there is a delicious irony in its simple plot.

It involves aliens, naturally, coming to earth to steal the powers of leading National Basketball Association (NBA) players such as Charles Barkley, Patrick Ewing and Larry Johnson. Jordan is enlisted by the Looney Tunes to win them back and restore them to their owners. There are no prizes for guessing if he succeeds.

The irony? Well, as Jordan lounged on a treatment couch in the Chicago Bulls locker-room before his team's game against Milwaukee Bucks here on Tuesday night, and talked about how he is better now than he ever was, how his game has changed and his skills have "expanded", it became startlingly obvious: Michael Jordan's stellar basketball career has never encompassed helping rivals to look good; it has been about making them look ordinary.

Jordan scored 40 points against the Bucks without having a particularly good game. Unusually for him, he missed several attempts to sink his new favourite move, the turnaround jump shot, where he starts with his back to the hoop and his opponent, leaps and turns in the air and loops the ball into the basket. He still sank enough of them to score more than twice the points of any team-mate.

"My game is not as predictable as it used to be before I went off to play baseball," he said. "It has moved away from slam-dunking, eye-opening moves to more basic things like the turnaround jump shot. I like that. That shows the versatility of my skills."

"I use more rationale than I used to now, too. Why should I do something spectacular like take off from the free-throw line when I could just make a jump shot?"

"A few years ago, people were criticising me and saying all I wanted to do was drive and dunk, but now that is what they want me to do. When I look at old videos, I see things I haven't done in a while. You can't say I can't do them, it's just because I haven't tried."

"I have found other ways to be just as successful. I learnt that by watching players like Larry Bird and Magic Johnson. They found new ways to challenge themselves and change. That is what separates good players from the great players."

With the season almost a quarter of the way through its punishing schedule, the Bulls, led by Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman, have already established themselves as the clear favourites to win the NBA championship in May with a record of 17 wins and one defeat. Jordan, who has already been the league's top scorer in eight previous years, is out in front again, averaging more than 30 points a game, four more than anybody else.

For the first time in several years, he dropped to second — behind Mike Tyson — in the list of top-earning sportsmen published by *Forbes* magazine. The consolation was that he still earned a one-year \$30 million salary from the Bulls, the highest in league history, brought in another \$22.6 million from endorsements, and should see all that double next year when the profits from *Space Jam* start to roll in.

That, though, presumes "His Airness" will still be playing next year. As he sat in the locker-room, still dressed in his yellow polo shirt and slacks half an hour before the game, he was the picture of laconic contentment and self-confidence, happy to talk about the future, ready to embrace whatever it brings.

"I have no plans after the end of the season," he said. "Next year I will sign another one-year deal if they want to sign me, if the team continues the progress it has been making. If they decide they want to rebuild, bring in some younger players, there's a strong possibility I won't be around. If the Bulls don't sign me, I won't be going anywhere else. I would not put my family through another move."

"I'm happy with my game, happy in the role of team leader. The motivation is still there. It is always an attitude to prove my game, my skills, consistent skills. I need to prove that I can still play at this level and put up the same numbers against younger, better, more athletic talent. There is not that much longer before I have to choose another direction."

Then, as he stood up to walk over to where his strip hung on its peg, someone asked him if he could reasonably expect another \$30 million contract next season. "Why not?" he said. "Why would I expect anything less?"

At this Pembertonian ukase, as many as eight Farsley players allegedly set about the poor ref. The police at Pudsey are on the case; meanwhile Farsley have been suspended from the league while inquiries continue.

Meanwhile, Diego's illegitimate child, fruit of the illicit liaison between himself and Cristina Sinagra, is ready to make his first official appearance as a footballer. He plays for *Academia against Nola* in a Christmas tournament.

Perhaps this is not such a good omen for Diego Jr. An Italian non-league club has been banned from playing home games after an incident in which fans attacked linesmen and ref in a 30-strong pitch invasion in a match against Virtus-La Castellana. The club, based at the eponymous town near Perugia, is called Bastardo.

Who said this? I. My career's been like the migrating woodcock. You've got all the shooters and storms trying to whack you down, but, in the end, you just want to get to new fields. 2. Football is a fertility festival. Eleven sperm trying to get into the egg. I feel sorry for the goalkeeper. 3. Q. One wish? A. Apart from world peace, a long injury-free career. 4. I tell my players they've made a happy man

Answers to quotations: 1. Vinnie Jones. 2. Bjork. Icelandic pop singer. 3. Gareth Southgate, in a programme questionnaire. 4. Jimmy Nicholl, then manager of Raith Rovers. 5. Alan Parry, ITV commentator, during the World Cup finals of 1994.



Jordan's power and athleticism take him soaring above his marker to jam the ball

Ref blows whistle on curse of parent power

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

THIS week this column rings with sport and its natural accompaniment, the happy laughter of little children. Or as Alan Pemberton, a 57-year-old referee, said: "I'll never be doing children's matches again. I'll stick with the adults. They're a lot safer."

Pemberton had been punched, kicked and belaboured with the corner flags in the course of an encounter between Farsley Celtic Under-17s and Ossett Town Juniors in the Leeds and District Minor League last Sunday.

The assault began after he called off the match, when poised intriguingly at 2-2. The reason for the abandonment was the ceaseless abuse that Pemberton received from the touchline (when this column is made president of world sport the first thing I will do is ban all parents from watching sport involving their progeny).

At this Pembertonian ukase, as many as eight Farsley players allegedly set about the poor ref. The police at Pudsey are on the case; meanwhile Farsley have been suspended from the league while inquiries continue.

Meanwhile, Diego's illegitimate child, fruit of the illicit liaison between himself and Cristina Sinagra, is ready to make his first official appearance as a footballer. He plays for *Academia against Nola* in a Christmas tournament.

Name game

Perhaps this is not such a good omen for Diego Jr. An Italian non-league club has been banned from playing home games after an incident in which fans attacked linesmen and ref in a 30-strong pitch invasion in a match against Virtus-La Castellana. The club, based at the eponymous town near Perugia, is called Bastardo.

Nanny state

Who said this? I. My career's been like the migrating woodcock. You've got all the shooters and storms trying to whack you down, but, in the end, you just want to get to new fields. 2. Football is a fertility festival. Eleven sperm trying to get into the egg. I feel sorry for the goalkeeper. 3. Q. One wish? A. Apart from world peace, a long injury-free career. 4. I tell my players they've made a happy man

very old. 5. Not only do the South Koreans names sound the same, but they all look similar, don't they?

All these from the latest edition *The Umbro Book of Football Quotations*, an essential work whose previous offerings have entered the lore and language of the game, by Peter Bell and Phil Shaw, published by Ebury Press price £9.99. Answers below.

Roast Chestnut

Another childish story. Chestnut Ridge High School is based in New Paris, Pennsylvania, and, though it may not rival the old Paris in every respect, they, appropriately, took on a French exchange student, Greg Giraud.

Giraud was injured by a fall from a five-storey building when he was three, but, being a *garçon* not without courage, he can play football — sah-kerr, not gridiron — on his crutches; but, after his first appearance for the Pennsylvania Partisans, the state's Interscholastic Athletic

Results to be published around Christmas. Examples. Two: the number of penalties Stuart Pearce has successfully dispatched in England penalty shoot-outs. And 492: the number of balls Michael Atherton faced in that innings.

Answers to quotations: 1. Vinnie Jones. 2. Bjork. Icelandic pop singer. 3. Gareth Southgate, in a programme questionnaire. 4. Jimmy Nicholl, then manager of Raith Rovers. 5. Alan Parry, ITV commentator, during the World Cup finals of 1994.

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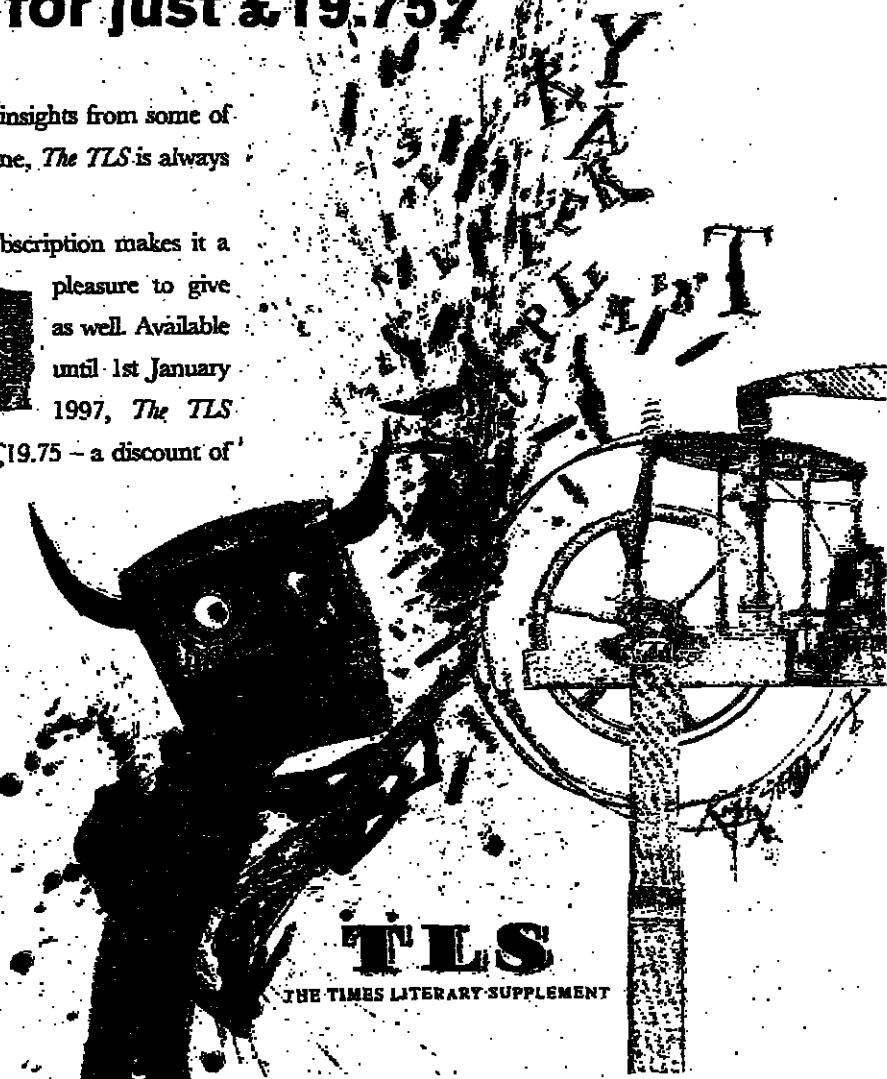
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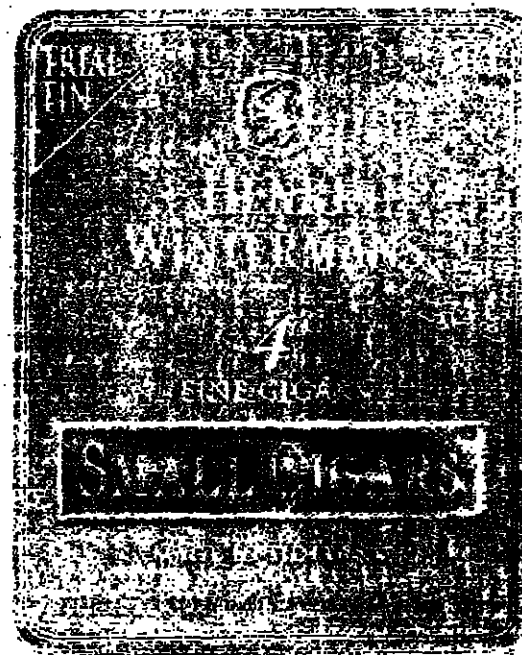
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4. Do you also smoke cigarettes? Yes occasionally ☐ No given up ☐ Yes regularly ☐ No never ☐

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SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE
Chief Medical Officers' Warning

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

The return of Dennis Bergkamp, fit again, gives Arsenal all sorts of extra options and should see them pick up another three points against Derby. Last Wednesday, against Southampton, he was overshadowed by a rampant Paul Merson, who was dangerous in everything he did. Vieira, Boud and Adams are due suspensions soon and all will be missed. Vieira will have to watch that combative approach. Adams, expelled at Newcastle, seems unlucky. BG

ASTON VILLA

In the aftermath of Villa's smooth 2-0 success against West Ham on Wednesday, Brian Little, the manager, was suddenly asked if he would be persisting with his interest in Stan Collymore, Liverpool's rebel without applause. "I never talk about players contracted to other clubs," he replied. "Never have done, never will." Little made it clear he would not be drawn further on the touchy topic but most of the assembled sportsounds took his brief response as a definite "yes". RK

BLACKBURN ROVERS

The clamour concerning Sven Goran Eriksson continues, but the smart money at Ewood Park is on the caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, keeping the chair warm until the end of the season. Parkes has had three separate spells in charge, but this present stint is the longest—six weeks. Given his results since succeeding Ray Harford, it would be no hardship for Parkes to be retained until the end of the season, especially as Eriksson would be available by then. DM

CHELSEA

After that, horrid affair at Leeds, the question looms: can all those expensive foreigners support the physical challenge of English football? At Elland Road, Zola was marked out of the game. Di Matteo and Vialli, disappointed, Leboeuf no longer looked dominant. Now there is the alarming case of Craig Burley, the Scotland international, distressed at being forced out of the team by all those imports. Gullit, who must simply start this game, cannot afford to lose men like Burley. BG

COVENTRY CITY

Chief casualty since Gordon Strachan replaced Ron Atkinson at the helm is Kevin Richardson, the graft-and-grit midfield player who has amassed more than 550 appearances in his 17-year career. Richardson, 34 this week, has seen not a minute of Premiership action during Strachan's brief reign but he refuses to contemplate a possible afterlife in the Nationwide League. "No way," he said. "If it ever looked like coming to that, I think I'd prefer to pack it in". RK

DERBY COUNTY

Jim Smith has been in management long enough, 24 years to be precise, to know how to savour the good times. The bad inevitably follow, but these days little is going wrong for the "Bald Eagle". Where a month ago his forward line was considered a weakness, Sturridge and Ward are now playing together with the understanding of twin brothers. Derby have won three of their last four matches but could face Arsenal, the leaders, at Highbury today without Paul McGrath. RH

EVERTON

Joe Royle's list of pre-Christmas presents would not have included Nick Barnby going down with influenza, but it solves one problem for the Everton manager—who should be left out to accommodate Duncan Ferguson, Ferguson, having been omitted last week, came on as a substitute and scored, leaving no one in any doubt about his feelings. Tony Grant, who was on crutches until midweek after running into Paul Bracewell, has made a speedy recovery and is expected to play. PB

LEEDS UNITED

The win over Chelsea might have had neutrals blanching, but it has lifted Leeds. "It's a physical game," Carlton Palmer told Leeds Club. "Chelsea came wanting to play football and we didn't let them," he said. Middlesbrough can expect more of the same today as Leeds look for a third successive victory for their best run in 15 months. With John Scales at Elland Road yesterday for talks, Wetherall, Radebe, Palmer and Beesley will all be on their mettle. PB

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester hit their first target for the season by reaching 20 points when they beat Middlesbrough on Tuesday night. When they went down two seasons ago they had just 14. By Christmas and their next three home games are all against sides below them, beginning with Blackburn this afternoon. Martin O'Neill, the manager, believes that 42 could be enough to ensure survival but remains cautious. However, with a formidable work rate they are no longer relegation candidates. RH

LIVERPOOL

There could soon be hundreds of little Robbie Fowlers running around Anfield. Scheduled for completion in September next year, the Liverpool football academy will be based on the Ajax model, and will include training pitches, schooling provision, even a hotel on the 55-acre site in Kirby, all costing around £8 million. Children as young as eight will be invited to the academy to hone their skills, and young players will be invited to join from all over the world. The future looks red. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED

United's win in Vienna pleased the shareholders and the accountants as much as the players and fans, and in the aftermath Alex Ferguson, the manager, and Martin Edwards, the chairman, both contemplated adding to the squad. Ferguson, however, is not being rushed. "Prices here are going through the roof, which probably means looking to Europe," he said, "and getting players who aren't cupped for Europe is a problem. We're assessing the situation." PB

MIDDLESBROUGH

No Emerson (still on his latest walkabout) and no Juninho (injured), so Middlesbrough must arrest a run of ten league games without a win with no Brazilian assistance. Leeds are unlikely to prove submissive today and with the underrated Alan Moore also injured, resources are stretched. How Bryan Robson, the manager, must wish he could turn back the clock to Leeds's visit last season, when it coincided with Juninho's debut and the promise of imminent Teesside glory. LT

NEWCASTLE UNITED

So now we know what managing a side as unpredictable as Newcastle is like. "The mood swings are unbelievable at times," Kevin Keegan admitted this week. What he did not make clear was whether it was to himself he was referring, or his team. Drastic action is required in the league, but it could be provided on Monday evening against Nottingham Forest. Les Ferdinand returns, less than a month after a cheekbone fracture, and his record is enviable this season. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Frank Clark, the manager, has denied that Ian Woan will be sold to raise the money to repay a £2 million bank loan by the end of the year. However, it is not certain that Woan will be retained for the game against Newcastle on Monday. Chris Allen, the winger signed from Oxford over the summer, has given an extra dimension to attacks with his pace on the left side. Woan's usual position. Forest are creating opportunities, but Dean Saunders, with two goals from 15 games, must start scoring. RH

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

It is not an easy time to be travelling to Anfield, according to David Platt, the manager, especially given that his side will again be without Hirst, Collins and Newsome. "Liverpool are very strong now, and I believe this season is their best chance of winning the title for a long time," Platt said. But he will not be going to shut up shop. "That just plays into their hands. We have to try to take them on." The out-of-favour Sheridan is likely to complete a move to Bolton this weekend. DM

SUNDERLAND

Fresh from the encouraging win at Everton last weekend, Sunderland intend to end Wimbledon's unbeaten run of 17 league matches at Roker Park today. Peter Reid, the manager, has spent much of this week in Sweden and hopes to introduce a couple of young strikers on trial next week. Like Wimbledon, Sunderland's prime asset is team spirit. This should not, however, obscure the worrying statistic that Reid's joint leading scorer, Michael Bridges, has just two goals to his name. LT

HOW THEY STAND

	Pts	Goal diff	Last five
1 Arsenal	18	+18	DWWDW
2 Liverpool	15	+13	LWDWW
3 Newcastle	15	+9	LWDDL
4 Wimbledon	15	+10	DDDDW
5 Aston Villa	15	+6	WLWWW
6 Manchester Utd	15	+7	LWDWW
7 Chelsea	15	+2	WWDDL
8 Everton	15	+5	WDWWL
9 Derby	15	-1	WDWWL
10 Sheffield Wed	15	-2	DWDDL
11 Tottenham	15	-1	DWWDL
12 Leicester	15	-5	WLWWL
13 Leeds	15	-5	WLWWL
14 Sunderland	15	-3	WLWWL
15 West Ham	16	-7	LWDDL
16 Middlesbrough	16	-8	LWDDL
17 Southampton	16	-7	DLDDL
18 Blackburn	15	-12	LWDDL
19 Coventry	15	-12	DDDDL
20 Nottingham Forest	15	-13	LWDDL

SOUTHAMPTON

"I think we have the people in the team who have the required 'hunting' qualities," Graeme Souness, the manager, said at Highbury on Wednesday. He admitted that they do not, however, have a forward to share the load with Egil Oerstad, although Le Tissier, out today, may return earlier than expected. More important in the long-term is Hampshire County Council's meeting on Thursday, when the club's new ground at Stoneham is expected to pass its final planning hurdle. NS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham captain, thought his £5,000 computer would be in safe hands when he sent it to a Berkshire firm to be repaired. Sadly, it has since gone "missing", allegedly with many others, and is the subject of a police investigation. "I believe it was stolen," Mabbutt said. As if the club had not suffered enough embarrassment lately, the computer-losing company is none other than Hewlett Packard, the much-revered main sponsors of... Tottenham. RK

WEST HAM UNITED

Two years ago Manchester United lost the title at Upton Park, but last season, Cantona's goal sparked the champions' ultimately successful pursuit of Newcastle United. The meeting tomorrow will be less decisive—like West Ham's finishing, in fact. There could be a recall for the unprolific Steve Jones as Harry Redknapp searches for goals. "We have no excuses," Florin Raducioiu, one of the guilty men, admits. "We need to score, we need to improve, beginning on Sunday." KP

WIMBLEDON

Wimbledon look for only their second Premiership victory outside London today, and will relish the chance to spoil Sunderland's homecoming party after their win at Everton. They may parade a new international: Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, discovered the Scottish grandparentage of Neil Sullivan, the goalkeeper, and hopes to confirm his eligibility in the new year. Meanwhile, stories linking Alan Kimble with Leicester are unlikely while Thatcher remains a long-term injury. NS

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szepanski, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

ARSENAL v DERBY COUNTY

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-2, 1-1, 3-0, —, —, —, —, —, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): J. Lukic, A. Linighan, S. Boud, A. Adams, L. Dixon, P. Merson, P. Vieira, N. Winterburn, D. Platt, I. Wright, J. Harrison, P. Shaw, S. Morrow, R. Garcia, R. Parfitt, M. Rose, V. Bartram.

DERBY COUNTY (from): R. Houl, G. Rowett, C. Powell, D. Powell, P. McGrath, I. Stanac, D. Yates, J. Laursen, S. Flynn, D. Sturridge, A. Ward, A. Asanovic, G. Daffy, R. Williams, M. Carlson, L. Carlsley, M. Taylor.

CHELSEA v EVERTON

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 0-0, —, 2-1, 1-2, 2-2, 1-1, 4-2, 0-1, 0-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

CHELSEA (from): F. Grodas, D. Petrescu, T. Phelan, R. Gullit, F. Leboeuf, S. Clarke, A. Myers, G. Vialli, M. Hughes, D. Wise, M. Dubarry, D. Lee, R. di Matteo, S. Minto, E. Johnson, J. Morris, P. Sinden, M. Nicholas, G. Zola, N. Colgan.

EVERTON (from): N. Southall, P. Gerrard, E. Barnett, D. Watson, C. Short, D. Unsworth, A. Hinchcliffe, M. Hoggie, A. Kanchelski, J. Parkinson, A. Grant, G. Speed, G. Allen, M. Branch, G. Stuart, D. Ferguson.

COVENTRY CITY v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-3, 2-1, 1-1, 0-0, 2-0, 1-2, 1-0, 1-0, 0-4, 2-3

HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from): S. Ogrizovic, R. Shaw, L. Delist, P. Williams, D. Burrows, P. Tait, E. Jess, G. McWhirter, J. Williams, J. Salako, D. Dublin, N. Whelan, K. Richardson, B. Burrows, M. Hall, J. Flann, P. Ndlovu, W. Boland, R. Gerrard, G. Strachan, L. Costello, D. Huckerby.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I. Walker, E. Beardsley, S. Carr, D. Austin, C. Caldwell, S. Campbell, S. Nethercott, J. Edinborough, C. Wilson, D. Howells, A. Nielsen, J. Doonan, R. Fox, R. Rosenfield, E. Sheringham, S. Hansen, A. Sinton, R. Allen.

LEICESTER CITY v BLACKBURN ROVERS

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 1-2, 0-0, 1-1, 1-3, 3-0, —, 0-0, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): K. Keller, S. Grayson, J. Watts, S. Prior, I. Marshall, N. Lannon, E. Heskey, S. Clarke, M. Jozz, S. Taylor, G. Parker, P. Kearns, J. Lawrence, C. Hill, S. Campbell, K. Poole.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T. Flowers, J. Kerne, H. Berg, C. Hendry, G. Leaux, T. Shawcross, W. McKinlay, G. Filcott, K. Gallacher, C. Sutton, J. Wilcock, L. Bohinen, G. Davis, S. Ripley, G. Croft, S. Given, D. Duff.

LIVERPOOL v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-0, 5-1, 2-1, —, 1-1, 1-0, 2-0, 4-1, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

LIVERPOOL (from): D. James, J. McGehee, S. Bismbeys, M. Wright, P. Babb, N. Ruddock, S. McManis, J. Barnes, M. Thomas, R. Fowler, P. Berger, S. Collymore, J. Radknapp, A. Kennedy, A. Warner.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K. Pressman, P. Atkinson, I. Nisim, M. Pemberton, D. Walker, G. Whittingham, S. Carbone, A. Booth, G. Hyde, L. Brescoe, O. Trustful, S. Nicol, D. Stefanovic, S. Oakes, R. Humphreys, R. Binkley, M. Clarke.

MIDDLESBROUGH v LEEDS UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 2-0, —, 0-2, —, —, 4-1, —, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G. Walsh, N. Cox, D. Whyte, C. Fleming, R. Mustoe, M. Beck, P. Stamp, C. Higgins, F. Reynolds, C. Morris, P. Whelan, J. A. Ffrench, C. Freestone, E. Roberts, M. Summerbell.

LEEDS UNITED (from): M. Merlyn, G. Kelly, C. Palmer, D. Wetherall, P. Beesley, L. Radebe, M. Ford, L. Sawyer, I. Sharpe, B. Deane, I. Rush, A. Yeboah, R. Wallace, M. Jackson, I. Harte, M. Beesley.

SOUTHAMPTON v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 5-0, —, 3-1, 2-1, 1-1, 1-1, 2-0, 4-1, 2-1, 0-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D. Bassett, G. Lundelov, R. Dryden, U. van Gool, J. Whitting, N. Macdonald, E. Barlowe, J. Dodd, M. Oakley, E. Oatstead, S. Charlton, G. Potter, K. Morikou, M. Moss, S. Basham, G. Watson.

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Oakes, F. Nelson, A. Wright, U. Eriks, S. Staunton, R. Simeon, A. Townsend, M. Draper, I. Taylor, D. Yorke, S. Miosovic, J. Joachim, J. Johnson, S. Curcio, C. Tier, G. Farrelly, M. Rachin.

SUNDERLAND v WIMBLEDON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 0-0, —, —, —, —, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): L. Perez, G. Hall, D. Kubicki, M. Scott, A. McVie, R. O'G, D. Kelly, A. Rios, P. Brackwell, K. Bell, M. Smith, G. Russell, M. Grey, M. Bridges, D. Freese, G. Agnew, S. Aiston.

WIMBLEDON (from): N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, A. Kimble, C. Perry, D. Blackwell, S. McAllister, A. Reeves, R. Eade, V. Jones, O. Leachard, M. Gayle, E. Exler, D. Holdsworth, N. Ardley, P. Fear, A. Clarke, M. Hazard, J. Eust, B. Murphy.

LEADING SCORERS

13: I. Wright (Arsenal)

6: F. Riera (Middlesbrough), A. Shearer (Newcastle United)

5: D. York (Aston Villa), M. Le Tissier (Southampton)

7: G. Vialli (Chelsea), L. Ferdinand (Newcastle United), R. Earle (Wimbledon)

6: G. Speed (Everton), M. Gayle (Wimbledon), E. Etoku (Wimbledon)

The official Internet site of the FA Premier League is at <http://www.fapremier.com/>

WEST HAM UNITED v MANCHESTER UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 1-1, 1-0, —, 2-2, 1-1, 0-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Mikosko, T. Brackley, K. Rowland, M. Ripley, S. Bisc, F. Lampard, D. Wilkinson, I. Davis, S. Jones, M. Hughes, S. Lazzarini, M. Bowen, P. Fane, F. Redouk, D. Dumfries, S. Potts, J. Morgan, I. Bishop, H. Portno.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, D. Irwin, D. May, G. Pallister, R. Johnson, D. Blackham, B. McClair, S. Carr, R. Gilles, P. Scholes, O. G. Solskjaer, J. Chyff, K. Paborany, M. Clegg, B. Thornley, M. Appleton, J. O'Kane, C. Casper, R. van der Sloot.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 0-2, 1-1, —, —, —, 0-0, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M. Crossley, A. Fette, D. Lytle, A. Hestland, C. Cooper, N. Jerkin, S. Chelle, S. Phillips, D. Preece, C. Bell, Williams, S. Gennib, C. Allen, I. Woan, K. Campbell, O. Saunders, J. Lee, S. Howe, B. Roy, S. Blatherwick.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P. Smuck, W. Barton, J. Beardsley, D. Batty, D. Passcoe, R. Lee, P. Beardsley, A. Shearer, F. Asprill, L. Ferdinand, R. Elliot, D. Gracie, S. Hiskop, K. Gillespie, S. Watson, L. Clark, P. Albert, P. Kison.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC 1: Match of the Day (Highlights)

Tomorrow

10am Sky Sports 1: Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports 1: First Extra: Super Sunday

West Ham United v Manchester United (Live)

Monday

7pm Sky Sports 1: First Extra: Monday night football

Nottingham Forest v Newcastle United (Live)

Maldini to sample new menu at game's top table

Cesare Maldini, the former manager of the Italy Under-21 side, has been appointed manager of the full national team in succession to Arrigo Sacchi, who has abruptly returned to AC Milan. Thereby hangs a revolution. For Maldini, once Milan's uncompromising centre half, himself capped on 14 occasions, often as sweeper, is a *catenaccio* man.

There has been no tactical continuity between his largely successful under-21 team and Sacchi's national team, wholly committed to 4-4-2, zonal defence, and something known in Italy as "pressing", which broadly means pushing up quickly to the halfway line to deny space to the opposition. Maldini will have no warm-up matches, in which to impose his preferred tactics on his team before they play England in the World Cup match at Wembley in February.

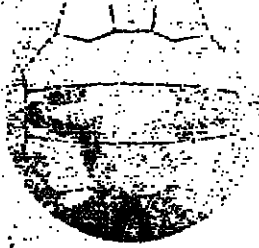
In a recent week in Milan, I had lunch almost every day in L'Assassino, a restaurant long associated with AC Milan. Woe to whoever expresses opinions which run counter to the club. On the day of the recent Milan-Internazionale derby, a diner rose to his feet and, as he left, addressed me — "I hope you're wrong about Maldini, when you say you think they'll draw."

In the event, draw they did. I-I, though they squandered a glut of chances to win. Maldini presides, a gaunt, authoritative presence over the long table at the top of the main room. Those who sit with him, mostly prosperous and middle-aged football lovers all, are happy to delve into the past.

At the foot of the table sits, as Maldini proudly points out, a silent old fellow in his 90s. He eats slowly and methodically, all energy consumed by digestion, for he

CESARE MALDINI

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL



By Brian Glanville

never says a word. Maldini himself speaks freely and frequently, and does not mind his words. When he recently watched Newcastle United play in Metz, he pronounced himself amazed

by their defence which, he says, could have given away 14 goals.

He is now 64. He has never managed a club, has won European titles with his under-21s — they are the reigning champions — but seems to have lost his chance of succeeding Sacchi when his under-23 team went out disappointingly early in the Olympic tournament in the United States last summer.

Perhaps the best advertisement for his methods is Paolo, his son, a handsome young man who figured prominently in the past two World Cups, both as an attacking left back of pace and brio, and as an accomplished centre back, though not as *libero*, the position that his father often filled.

Born in Milan — Cesare is from Trieste — Paolo was coached by AC Milan from boyhood and it is his only club. This season his disap-

pointing form has been a mystery. For so long one of the most reliable and influential figures, with Milan and Italy, he has been strangely erratic, and only now is he beginning to recover form. It was notable, in the Milanese derby, that he seldom embarked on his overlapping runs. A crisis of confidence, or so it seemed, but nobody will protest if Cesare keeps him in the Italy team.

If Cesare seems long in the tooth for his new role, it must be said that he has no obvious rival. The name of Dino Zoff had at first been canvassed. Zoff played 112 times for Italy, captaining them to their World Cup triumph in Spain in 1982.

He has managed Juventus and Lazio, whose president he now is, a man of infinite, quiet dignity but without the dynamism of Enzo Berzot. A fellow Friulan (from the northeast of Italy), Berzot managed the



Cesare Maldini: committed to introducing *catenaccio*

asm on either side. Italy's leading managers prefer to work, most lucratively, for clubs, either at home, like Marcello Lippi, of Juventus, or abroad, like Fabio Capello, now at Real Madrid, or Gianni Trapattoni, at Bayern Munich.

Sacchi's departure from his £800,000-a-year job will not be mourned by supporters or media. Though Italy, under his aegis, reached the final of the 1994 World Cup and lost it only on penalties, he has never been loved or admired.

Gianluca Vialli, now at Chelsea, excluded from that 1994 World Cup, remarked subsequently that Sacchi and Antonio Matarrese, his protector, then the president of the Italian Football Association, were "the two most unpopular men in Italy".

Sacchi's return to Milan started badly on Wednesday, with European Cup defeat by Rosenborg. He never kicked a

ball in decent football even as an amateur. Fusignano, his local club, told him that he would never be a player: he might as well coach the youngsters. This he did with increasing success, remarking in later years: "You don't have to have been a horse to be a jockey."

"Flair" players made Sacchi uneasy. His relationship with Roberto Baggio, whose goals took Italy to the World Cup final, has been famously fraught. So has that with Beppe Signori and Gianfranco Zola.

Last summer, in Euro 96, Sacchi made the ludicrous mistake of omitting five of his main team against the Czech Republic, lost, and saw Italy eliminated.

Cesare Maldini may miss those happy lunchtimes at L'Assassino. Managing *prime donne* of Italy's top team is not the same as managing the bright-eyed under-21s.

FOOTBALL

Winterburn and Wright escape action on charges

By Russell Kempson and Peter Ball

IAN WRIGHT and Nigel Winterburn, the Arsenal players, escaped punishment yesterday after appearing, separately, before a Football Association disciplinary commission. Wright was found not guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, but warned as to his future conduct, while Winterburn was cleared of a misconduct charge.

The pair are thus free to play for Arsenal, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, against Derby County at Highbury this afternoon. However, Dennis Bergkamp, David Seaman and Martin Keown will be missing, because of injuries, as Arsenal attempt to stretch their three-point lead.

Wright and Winterburn were charged by the FA after incidents arising from the 4-1 victory against Sheffield Wednesday in September. During the match, Winterburn was alleged to have made an obscene gesture at a group of disabled Wednesday supporters.

Subsequently, after David Platt, the Wednesday manager, had made critical remarks about Arsenal's tactics, Wright called him "a pervert". He later apologised to Platt and his family.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday: "There

will be no further action. Ian has been warned as to his future conduct and must be careful about what he says in the future."

Wright was pleased with the outcome. "I have been treated fairly again by the FA," he said. "I'm pleased it's all over, for me and Mr Platt. Of course, I do regret what I said. It caused a lot of distress for him and his family. When you

Ray Harford, who resigned as manager of Blackburn Rovers, the Premiership strugglers, has been made assistant to Steve McMahon at Swindon Town, with the aim of improving their away form.

see it in print, you realise how bad it looks."

Manchester United, mission accomplished by reaching the European Cup quarter-finals, can now concentrate on the Premiership for three months. Arsenal, Liverpool and the rest of the title challengers should beware.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has always maintained that the aim was to keep in touch in the league until the Champions' League, the first stage of the European campaign, was out of the way. Then, and only then, would

their attentions turn to the Premiership, against West Ham United at Upton Park tomorrow, the time has come.

"December and January is an important period for us now," Ferguson said. "It gives us an opportunity to focus and concentrate on getting some consistency back into our game in the league. There may be a bit of hype in the weeks before the game with FC Porto [United's next European Cup opponents], but that's a long way off. We've got a good bit of time now to concentrate on the one thing."

United attempt to begin their charge without Roy Keane and Nicky Butt, their key competitors in central midfield. They were injured in the 2-0 win over Rapid Vienna on Wednesday, with Keane expected to be out for a month with a gashed leg.

Conflicting reports again emerged yesterday over the future of Emerson, Middlesbrough's troubled Brazilian midfielder player, who is still in Rio de Janeiro apparently comforting his sick wife, Andrea. Gianni Paladini, Emerson's adviser, said: "His wife isn't well and he is prepared to give up football. At the moment he doesn't care whether he plays again or not."

However, another report suggested that Emerson could soon return to Teesside. He was quoted as saying: "I intend to return to Middlesbrough with my wife, possibly next week. I can't leave at the moment as she is bed-ridden and depressed."

Alex Miller, the former manager of Hibernian, has been appointed assistant to Gordon Strachan at Coventry City, who play Tottenham Hotspur at home today. Steffen Iversen, Tottenham's £2.5 million signing from Rosenborg, of Norway, makes his debut.

Dave Merrington, the former Southampton manager, and John Byrne, the former Ireland striker, have emerged as front-runners for the vacant managerial job at Brighton, the Nationwide League's bottom club.

Boreham Wood double act gets results

Walter Gammie charts

the rise of a small club in Hertfordshire once near bankruptcy

Combine a chairman who has a coaching badge with a manager who is an accountant and you either have a recipe for trouble or a model for a new form of progressive football club.

For Phil Wallace and Bobby Makin, the chairman and manager of Boreham Wood, respectively, the success of their partnership can be judged by the fact that the club, from the Isthmian League, will be making its first appearance in the second round of the FA Cup today, away to Luton Town.

Wallace joined the club after taking an FA coaching



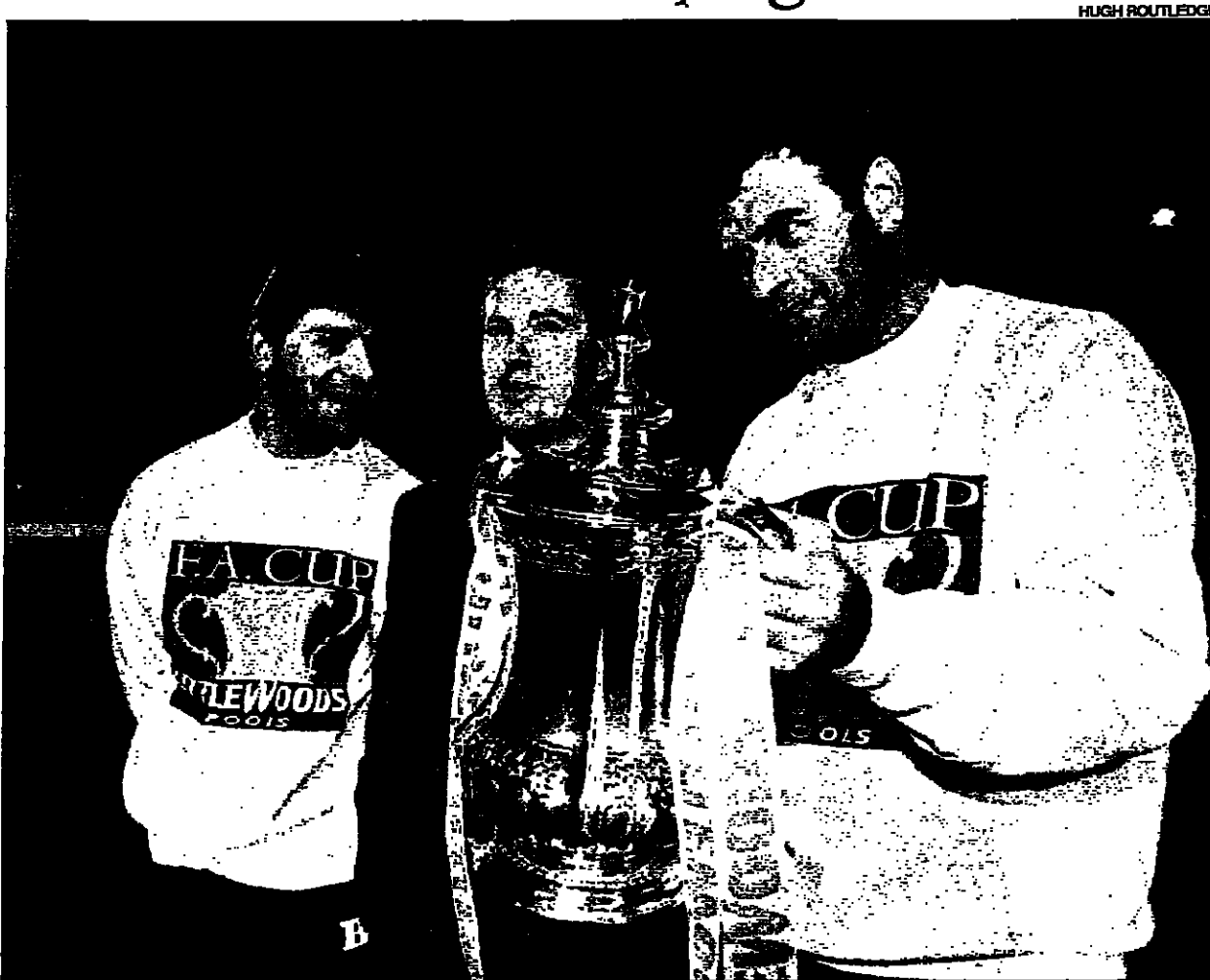
course "as a valve to release pressure" from his work, running the L & M Food Group. He arrived in August 1990 to assist Trevor Harvey, the manager; by December, he was chairman.

The club was more than £100,000 in debt and losing £600 a week. "It didn't have anywhere to go," Wallace said. "The bank manager was pressing at the door. I was asked to get involved and said: 'I'll do it for three months, get it straight and then I'm away again.'"

Six years later Wallace is still there. "The financial side of the club is such that, if I walked away, it would continue to do well even if it would miss a bit of my drive," he said. "The satisfaction comes from getting the club to make its own money."

Wallace's initial cash input helped to clear the debts, his energy to ensure five successive years of profit. Boreham Wood lie in Arsenal's catchment area and are among the lowest in the Isthmian League premier division, so outside revenue is vital. Wallace built an artificial pitch, refurbished function rooms and appointed a commercial manager.

Last season the club went into the final day as possible champions, but finished third behind Hayes and Enfield. There was an increase, if hardly a surge, in atten-



Makin, with hands on the FA Cup, Wallace and Harrington, the captain, hope to make club history at Luton

dances, which Wallace puts down to the 13 previous seasons, spent in the first division, that "left a whole generation of youngsters with no reason to come to the club".

Two years ago he made Alan Carrington, the assistant manager, football-in-the-community officer, which has brought the club into the schools and children to the club.

Carrington had been instrumental in bringing Makin to Wallace's attention when the chairman made the painful decision to part with Harvey four years ago. Carrington was helping at Boreham Wood after his days as assistant to Makin at Dartford ended abruptly when the club folded.

Makin, a true non-League warrior, wrapped up a career of more than 1,000 matches in 22 years with six matches at the age of 39 to finish his first season at Boreham Wood. He wanted to get his message across from closer quarters: five wins and a draw proved the point.

"The next season we won promotion and since then we've had our highest league position, our farthest run in

the FA Trophy and reached the FA Cup second round for the first time," he said. "If we beat our first League club, it will be another major achievement."

Yet Makin has been wearing a frown most of the season. Amid unbroken cup success, league form has been poor and fourteenth place is well short of expectations. "When we won at Rushden [3-2 in a first round replay] it

was the first time I'd seen him smile," Terry Robbins, the striker, said.

Robbins, 31, finally achieved his goal to play in the Football League last season — 18 appearances, two goals, with Barnet — but cut short a two-year contract to return to the City. Impressed as he is by Makin's dedication, Robbins is in awe of his chairman's commitment.

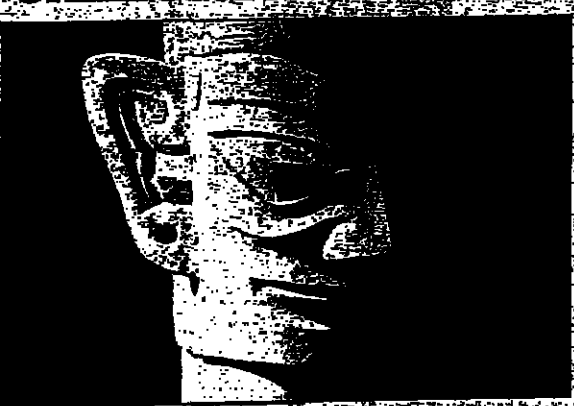
"He's football mad," Rob-

bins said. "He's always there at training, watching what's going on." Wallace said that, at 47, "creaking bones" forbid any more active role.

What would send Makin into raptures would be a victory over Luton followed by a third round draw against West Ham United. "I work for Dagenham Motors, and they sponsor West Ham," he said. "With that happy thought, it was back to work."

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CHANGING TIMES

Dent aims to join idle rich

NICK DENT, the Ashford Town striker, eats, breathes and sleeps football, with the emphasis firmly on sleeping; but, if Neil Cugley, his manager, can borrow Vinnie Jones's ghetto blaster and blare *In The Mood* around the Vicarage Road dressing-room today, Dent might wake up for long enough to give Ashford, the Dr Martens League premier division club, a lift at removing Watford from the FA Cup and secure a place in the third round.

Dent was once with Bristol City, but he could not cope with either full-time training or Joe Jordan, a disciplinarian manager. He has been airily described as the Eric Cantona of non-League football.

Surprisingly, Dent, the Ashford leading goalscorer, was the only man to miss when his side beat Dagenham and Redbridge on penalties in an away replay last week. Cugley believes that his underachiever can surprise Watford, however, along with Jeff Ross, the winger, Matt Carruthers, the Royal Ma-

Steve Acteson on a sleepy town's attempt to emerge among the FA Cup big names

rines forward, and Paul O'Brien, the defender.

Work appears to be a grey area with Dent. "He does as little as possible; I think mainly he's known as a professional bed-tester," Cugley said. "He doesn't like to get up too early. Well, that's not quite fair, he tries to get up in the hours of daylight, but doesn't always find it possible."

"For a manager, he's frustrating because, at times, he simply doesn't work hard enough; but he does remind me of [Matthew] Le Tissier. You know, that drifting role in from 30 yards; our crowd love him — and, despite his work-rate, I wouldn't swap him for anyone, he's class. His first touch is excellent and he's a superb finisher."

Dent, 28, signed professional forms ten years ago, but did not progress, drifting off to Yeovil Town, Poole and, eventually, Ashford, after a spell in Hong Kong.

"I am hoping to show Watford a thing or two," he said. "The bigger the stage, the bigger the player, they say, and I do like the big games."

Cugley is Ashford's only full-time employee, supplementing his income by running football fun weeks for schoolchildren. He has a wealth of FA Cup experience, however, even if he has never beaten League opposition either as player or manager in five attempts, the last chance coming two years ago when Ashford lost to Fulham in a replay.

Ashford — average gate 600 — expect to take 4,000 supporters to Watford for their first FA Cup second-round tie since the 1960s, "and I believe we can win", Cugley said. "Even the local council are excited enough to have given us £1,000 for new blazers, ties and trousers."

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RACING 41

O'Dwyer on course to continue his rapid progress

SPORT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

BASKETBALL 43

His Airness still graces court of rich and powerful



Ahead of the pack: Rob Andrew will be hoping to uphold the Barbarian tradition of running rugby when he captains them against an Australia XV at Twickenham today. Yesterday a group of willing pupils from Grey Court School, Richmond, arrived at Roehampton to give the former England stalwart a taste of what to expect from the Australians. Photograph, Marc Aspland. Preview, page 44

Lloyd tries video tonic to lift team's spirits

Atherton's injury adds to England's worries

FROM SIMON WILDE
IN HARARE

ENGLAND'S cricket tour of Zimbabwe could barely be going less smoothly. What was anticipated as a morale-boosting mission has been plagued by illness, a misguided work ethic and two bewilderingly heavy defeats at the hands of minor opposition. Yesterday Michael Atherton, the captain, received two injections in his lower back in an attempt to relieve chronic pain and keep alive hopes that he can yet turn the team's fortunes around. Nobody involved with the England side underestimates the importance of Atherton to their success, not only as captain but also as leading batsman who, time and again, forms the rock to which they cling. Atherton will stand down from the one-day match against Matabeleland in Bulawayo tomorrow, but plans to resume his place on Tuesday for the four-day game against them in the last fixture before the internationals.

He received the same treatment — two injections either side of the sacroiliac joint — 18 months ago, before the Lord's Test against West Indies. It is designed to increase his mobility, clearly restricted over the past few days to the detriment of his batting. His scores on the tour have been 0, 2 and 7. Before his medical appointment Atherton faced some gentle throw downs in the nets as England practised at the

Harare Sports Club, the scene of their humiliating three-day defeat at the hands of Mashonaland, which has raised doubts about the quality of management.

David Lloyd, the coach, said that there had been no diminution in Atherton's contribution because of his medical problems. "The captain's input is absolutely first class and the part he has played is miraculous, considering what he is going through," Lloyd said.

"He has had problems an international captain can do without. People have criticised him in the past for his body language and posture but there is nothing he can do about them [because of his back trouble]."

Lloyd conceded that there had been a stark difference between England's tentative



Atherton: back trouble

approach and that of the Mashonaland side which contained five amateurs but played with a competitiveness, self-belief and desire that their opponents did not remotely match.

Part of England's problem is that they have been slow to adapt to Zimbabwe's climate and culture, and especially the slow pitches. On a slow but true surface, England were dismissed for paltry totals of 197 and 180 and several batsmen were out to tame shots against the apparently innocuous medium-pace bowling of players such as Gary Brent. Of equal concern is the form of the seam attack, which has consistently failed to bowl the right length for the conditions.

Lloyd nevertheless defended the decision to let the players rest for two months at the end of the English season and prevent them from playing any cricket during a pre-tour get-together in Portugal. "I'd do it all again," he said.

Lloyd hopes that the anger and disappointment of their poor start will have a positive effect on the players. There are only 14 in the party and the management has already hinted that the team beaten by Mashonaland is close to its preferred Test XI.

As for the Zimbabweans, they are unlikely to be lulled into complacency by their early successes. It has given them an important edge, but it is one that they will need if they are to create further upsets. They were indeed wise

to decline a request from England for Mashonaland to meet them again in a limited-overs match yesterday, left blank by the premature end of the four-day fixture.

The result on Thursday was greeted with delight among the local population. Shortly after the match finished, the chairman of the Mashonaland Cricket Association, which hardly possesses the deepest coffers, announced its victorious players would each receive a bonus of ZIM\$1000 (about £65).

"This is a great result for us," Don Arnot, the chairman of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, said yesterday. "It is significant that, having only played England in one-day matches before, we showed here in a four-day match that we have the resources to cope and remain competitive."

Lloyd did one other thing to lift the spirits of his players yesterday. He played them videos of their best performances against some of the world's top players. "That's you lads; you were done by Gary Brent," he told them. "We are better than they are." Lloyd is right, of course. England do possess the better players. He knows that, his players know that, and so do the Zimbabweans. The problem is proving it when they get out in the middle. Time is running out.

Diary, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Hotties take lead, page 42

Confident Graham tips Scales to sign

BY DAVID MADDUCK

LEEDS United have agreed a £2.7 million fee for John Scales, the Liverpool central defender, who is likely to sign for the club on Monday. Scales travelled to Elland Road yesterday for talks that stretched from lunch time through to early evening, and expressed his satisfaction with the progress of negotiations.

"We will talk further over the weekend, but I am happy with the way things have gone so far and, if everything goes to plan, then I will be happy to return to Leeds," Scales said.

Scales will become the first signing by George Graham since he became manager three months ago. He might not have cost the club a penny. He joined Leeds as a teenager, but was released on a free transfer at 19, without being given an opportunity to prove his worth.

"We have agreed the fee and had amicable negotiations," Graham said, "and if he wants to come here, we will regard him as an important signing."

Regi Blinker, the Sheffield Wednesday midfielder, had his global suspension lifted by Fifa, the sport's world governing body, yesterday. He will be in the Wednesday starting line-up at Anfield today.

However, Blinker was fined almost £36,000 after being found guilty of contravening regulations preventing players from signing contracts with more than one club.

Henman's journey into the unknown reaps rich reward

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN MUNICH

TIM HENMAN could round off his year with the biggest payday of his short tennis career today and, with luck, learn one of the most important lessons. Win or lose in the Grand Slam Cup semi-final against Boris Becker, Henman will end up considerably richer than he was on Tuesday morning when the competition began, but he will also know what it is like to play a big-money, high-profile match in front of a largely hostile crowd.

The Olympiahalle here holds 11,500 spectators and Becker is the local hero. For the past three years he has made Munich his home and, as one of Germany's favourite sons, he is expected to win in style. Henman, too, carries more than a few expectations on his shoulders. Since he reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon he has been seen as the saviour of the once beleaguered British tennis world. In June, though, his success was a novelty and every win was a bonus. Now success is expected and he has a lot to live up to.

Whatever happens today, Henman's world ranking will stay the same. There is only money and pride to play for in Munich as the official season ended two weeks ago when the top eight men in the world played for the ATP world championship in Hanover. Henman is at No 20 in the world but, as yet, he has not pitted his wits against the top men and, as he may find out today, the step up to the heights of the top ten is a huge one. He is only 22, but by the same age Becker had won Wimbledon three times and the US Open once. Now one of

the grand old men of the tour, Becker could teach Henman a very sharp lesson.

For all Henman's progress, he has yet to play the likes of Chang, Muster and Ivanisevic, and the match with Becker will be their first encounter. Of the top ten, Henman has played only Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Wayne Ferreira and, while he has beaten both of them this year, he has also lost to both. Against Sampras, the world No 1, he has yet to take a set from him in two meetings.

The coming year, too, will be hard for Henman. He will no longer be the new boy on the tour and the top players will have seen what he can do and where his weaknesses lie. However, he and David Felgate, his coach, have their plan of action and Henman is not about to believe the hype that surrounds him. He

knows that he must become physically stronger and consolidate upon the achievements of the past 12 months. The top ten may be his goal, but it will take time and a lot of hard work to get there.

Defeat today would be softened by the consolation of earnings of £431,250 (about £263,900) from his week's work, while victory would open the way to the \$1 million first prize. Munich has proved by far and away the most lucrative tournament for Henman: he has doubled his year's earnings here. His achievement at Wimbledon may have brought most prestige, but it was worth only a mere \$51,025. Six semi-finals in ATP events have yielded up to \$35,000 apiece and reaching the fourth round of the US Open brought in \$45,000.

Ivanisevic wins, page 45

Clubs condemned by one law for the poor

From Monday onwards, Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, could be cast as doing for the football industry what she did for the National Health Service — becoming the matron of closures. The Football Trust, without whose grants the ordered modernisation of grounds in England and Scotland could not take place, meets to discuss the increasing damage done to its budgets by the National Lottery.

John Reames, one of the ten trustees, said: "We will have to have a moratorium on all new fund offers. The loss of income into the Football Trust is so serious that 20 clubs at least, all of them in the [National League] second and third divisions, will be in a dire position. I can see them finding the means to rebuild their stands.

The demands of the local safety committees won't change and, as Thursday's dramatic television programme of Hillsborough reminded us, can't change."

What Reames is talking about amounts to the end of League football as this country has known it for the better part of a century. He cites clubs such as Bournemouth, intending to move to a new stadium; such as Portsmouth, Reading and Port Vale, all of them desperately reliant on the Trust for funding.

But this is where Bottomley's influence sits heavily on the sport. In January the doubling of the National Lottery will bring an anticipated £80 million into the coffers; that is precisely the shortfall left in the building process towards safety and comfort which, after the Taylor Report, must be completed

Rob Hughes says cutbacks may change the face of football as seen for a century

by the new millennium. The irony is that those best able to help themselves have had all of the Trust money, £139 million of it, towards new stadiums costing £437 million.

No complaints there. Lord Justice Taylor said that the greatest threat to public safety was at the top and the priority, rightly, was to sweep away the crumbling Victorian edifices that threatened life and limb.

However, even before Hillsborough, there was another harrowing tragedy in an English stadium — the fire at Bradford City that killed 56 spectators. Reames was there that day. He is chairman of Lincoln City, who were the visiting team in May 1985 when the fire swept through the old wooden stand. Being there changed irrevocably the priorities of Lincoln City; Reames presided over the

rebuilding of the ground, the destruction of two stands horribly like Bradford's, the restoration of a stadium costing £3.25 million — one third of it coming from the Football Trust. "Building the ground is one of the reasons why we are still in the third division today," the chairman conceded. But the club has a future, it can be filling its 11,000-capacity stadium at the turn of the century in a Football League diminished by, as he forewarned, 20 casualties.

"The Government can be the final straw that puts a number of these clubs under," Reames said. "It was a declared policy of the Government to help to provide money, which derives in the first place from the taxation on football and the pools. Now, the Government is reneging on Taylor; we were told in the

House of Lords two weeks ago that there would be no more money for football and no extension to the Taylor deadline to complete all the modernisation by 2000."

Reames could hardly be accused of crying wolf, or of self-interest or self-preservation. His little club has a total wage bill of £750,000 per annum. This is less than the "gate" at a Manchester United match, less than the £1 million the top clubs hungrily anticipate from pay-per-view digital television, much less than the average £2 million that FA Carling Premiership clubs each reap per season from hospitality-box income.

Two worlds, but the Lincoln of football can live within the structure, must survive within it. Last month in the Lords, Lord Inglewood, the Under-Secretary of State for

National Heritage, stated bluntly that football must help itself. "The Government looks to the football authorities to ensure that the vastly increased revenue the game is now receiving from television and other commercial sources is distributed to enable clubs in all divisions to meet Taylor on schedule," he reiterated.

Reames shakes his head. He has put the roof over his own house in order, he shares the duty of the Football Trust members and he is on the board of the Football League. And to him the future is strangled. He knows that the concept of premier clubs saving smaller ones to groom young players will be a non-starter if there is nowhere for them to breed and to play their youngsters.

Premiership Guide, page 46
Maldini's moment, page 47

It can be the straw that puts clubs under

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Getting the edge with fake fur shopping - 3

THE TIMES

weekend

Time for tea with the Maharajah of Mysore travel - 15-19



SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996



Trouble in Hovis land

Moves to build a Sainsbury's supermarket in Shaftesbury, Dorset, have driven a deep wedge between people in the town. Jane McCarthy reports

The sky darkened over the historic English market town of Shaftesbury on Monday evening as the mayor, Derek Beer, emerged from the café he runs on the High Street. He crossed the road to join his deputy, Ray Humphries, who runs the hardware store opposite.

The occasion was the illumination of the High Street. No fancy laser displays or flashing decorations, just simple fairy lights strung from one side of the street to the other. Here is a street that takes a pride in itself: window boxes for the Britain in Bloom competition during the summer, traditional bunting for carnival week in October, and now early December and the month of Advent.

But this year's ceremony marked the advent of something other than the season of goodwill, for Tuesday, December 3, marked the final stages in the battle by the supermarket giant Sainsbury's for the soul of Shaftesbury.

The Second Supermarket Coming, which according to many will threaten the very survival of the High Street, has already driven a wedge between one section of the community and another, set council member against council mem-

ber, cousin against cousin and given rise to a storm of protests and accusations of vested interest, bias and bribery.

The fault-lines that run through every community — of age, class, occupation — have become gaping cracks as residents, shoppers, livestock auctioneers, football and cricket club members all play their part in this small-town supermarket war.

After months of negotiations with the town and district councils, financial inducements, surveys, reports, opinion polls, objections and amendments, North Dorset District Council's planning services committee was finally to meet to consider the planning application by Chelverton West Limited on behalf of Sainsbury's.

To city dwellers who expect a choice of mega-stores, it may all sound like over-reaction. Yet this drama is being enacted in rural towns across the country, and arouses passions that amaze even those most intimately involved.

Perched 700 feet above sea level, this Saxon hilltop town, the Shaston of Hardy's Wessex, retains the attributes he described in *Jude the Obscure*, "one of the queerest and quaintest spots in England"

and "a breezy and whimsical spot". The "natural picturesqueness and singularity of the town" to which he refers can still be detected. It is a thriving market town with its own cattle market, weekly street market, and a High Street not yet dominated by the major chains, but still housing small family businesses — bakers, florists, a greengrocer, butcher, gunsmith and hardware store.

The startlingly pretty Gold Hill is so unspoilt that it was used as the backdrop for the famous Hovis television commercial. Shaftesbury is a town where words such as millinery, hosiery, haberdashery and ironmongery do not seem out of place, nor do old-fashioned courtesy and personal service. You can expect George Anstee the baker to doff his hat in greeting, for Abbots the greengrocers to mind your shopping while you to call into the shop over the road, and for Humphries the hardware shop to

fit the new batteries in your clock. As Mayor Derek Beer says: "I believe in Shaftesbury. People generally don't care about their towns any more, but Shaftesbury still has community pride and people care. They cross the road to talk to each other. It's very sad that people are so divided. These developers come down here and turn body against body. They're devils."

There is indeed a perception among some people that Chelverton's determination to secure a site in Shaftesbury is almost malevolent. Howis of derision greeted the Sainsbury's representative, Alison Peach, at a packed public meeting two weeks earlier in the town hall when she claimed: "The store has been designed for the requirements of the town. We want to be part of the community."

Some two-thirds of the 100-strong audience voiced objections to the scheme that afternoon, and for those people developers repre-

sent the enemy, the outsider set on increasing profit margins at the expense of residents.

They have Shaftesbury Town Council, the Chamber of Trade, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the Civic Society on their side. George Anstee spoke with the grim determination for many when he said: "If we accept Sainsbury's, this will become Sainsbury's town. Please stick together and fight to the death."

And fighting there has been: petitions (one conducted as early as January 1995 attracted the signatures of 2,000 objectors in a matter of days); leaflets proclaimed "Don't go Insanesbury's"; empty shop fronts were daubed with the slogan, "Make Shaftesbury a super market town, not a supermarket town," and columns inches in the local papers were devoted to a war of words between the two sides.

In favour of the application is a group calling itself Supporting

New Shaftesbury Supermarket, headed by resident Hugh Woodhouse, to counter what he sees as "a vociferous minority who tend to be opposed to a lot of things. The biggest problem is that people who attend public meetings and write letters tend to be 55-plus, professional, well educated, articulate, and with the time to devote to such a cause. I looked around at the opening meeting, and saw a sea of greying and thinning pates, because everyone else was at work on a Tuesday afternoon."

Aligned with him are three of the 12 local councillors, the football club, cricket club, and Southern Counties auctioneers, who jointly lease the land under discussions and who all stand to gain from a successful bid.

They claim that 70 per cent of the town supports their cause. The opposition lobby claims the real figure is nearer 17 per cent. Councillor John Freeman, however, insists that his pro-Sainsbury's stance is "being guided by the people I've been elected to represent. To my knowledge I'm the only councillor who has knocked on people's doors to find out what they think. I don't

believe the argument that most people can't understand what these plans mean. I have faith in the ordinary person."

Understanding the plans as submitted by Chelverton is like trying to build on shifting sands. The exact site, dimensions, car parking arrangements, product lines and inclusion of a petrol station have over the months all been debated and redefined. The arguments hinge on the sale of amenity land within the town, the size of the development in relation to the needs of Shaftesbury, the increased traffic, the impact on the independent high street shops, and the location barely meeting the government's guidelines for "edge of town" developments.

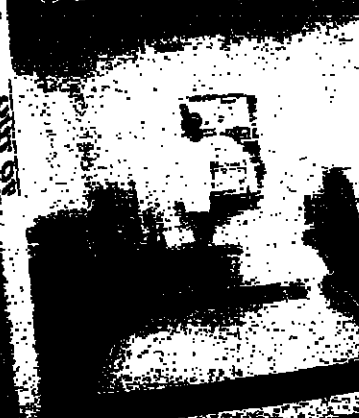
The town council, while acknowledging the need for another, centrally situated food store on an appropriate scale, has objected to the planning application and, as joint land owners with North Dorset District Council, has refused to sell the land. Their detractors note that since many members are town traders their views are self-serving and letters published in the local paper have

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING 23 SUPERMARKETS 4 CENTRE LIFE 4 PROPERTY 4-10 HOME LIFE 12 FAMILY LIFE 13 TRAVEL 15-19 GAMES 21

Remember the days when you just couldn't put a good book down?

Robert Goddard
OUT OF THE SUN



They're back.

Robert Goddard's new bestseller *Out of the Sun*. Out now in Corgi paperback.

Pants are not funny. It is only the word that is funny. Pants. Pants, pants, pants. There, that's that done with. For, you see, they are never called pants in shops.

They are called "classic trunks", "jockey thongs", "tanga briefs", "traditional boxers". This is because, in order to sell vast quantities of them, the manufacturers have to call them something else, so as to stop us laughing, or being embarrassed, or doing anything else that might make the cleaving of us from our cash any trickier.

It is for this reason, of course, that they do not call them "smalls", either. They do not draw our attention to pants. In department stores you may see signs directing you to "men's accessories", or

"shirts, ties and socks". But there is never a big arrow pointing through the perfumery, past the food hall on the left, to a department called "pants".

Socks are okay. The ideal Christmas gift. You will even find a thing called Burlington Socks in a Tin (£9.99). As if tinning your hosiery made it a more acceptable gift at yuletide. But "Pants in a Tin"? No chance. And yet, you must give pants this Christmas. Because it is far too embarrassing, nowadays, for a man to buy them himself.

It is a similar embarrassment to that which attaches to buying cosmetics: the woman behind the till is going to be imagining what you look like in them. And she is going to find it funny. This situation has been exacerbated by the modern pant box. For the norm

SERIOUS SHOPPING

UNDERPANTS



BY GILES COREN

among designers is to illustrate with an impossibly toned middle section, filmed in classic homoerotic black-and-white porn pose. Rummaging through one department store's collection, I confess I blushed.

What if I had been seen comparing the boxes? In the Isle of Man you can still be hanged for less.

One Armani box had the man wearing nothing at all, advertising only what your bottom might look like after you had taken the pants off. The funny thing is that nobody with a body in this sort of shape could possibly afford the pants. One pair by Dolce & Gabbana cost £39.99, and was offered with

go to the gym, pick up your steroids, or have your chest waxed.

What you get for your extra cash is a huge waist-band with the designer's name embossed all the way round. This is so that you can wear it pulled out of the top of your half-undone jeans emphasising both your fashion sense and gleaming abs (this look does not work well with a suit). Then, of course, you have the words "Hugo Boss", say, pressed into your skin all day so that after work you can peel off to reveal designer love handles.

The old boxers versus Y-fronts debate, by the way, is over. The rage now is for knee-length ther-

mal longjohns. Yves Saint-Laurent does a pair for £13.99 and Boss does a stretch cotton number (£36.99) with a misplaced pee-hole positioned somewhere around your pelvic bone.

The man in the picture wears it with a medium-sized haggis inside, but the traditional Scottish pudding was not included in the box I opened.

If not the long-legged effort then you must have the briefest of briefs. Hom do a black pair with some of that lacy elastic netting on the top and fishnet effect featuring crocheted flowers over the pubic bone (£21.99). Don't look at me like that. They sell them in Selfridges.

Hom also do a charming red micro brief for £10.99, and a sports model which features a man

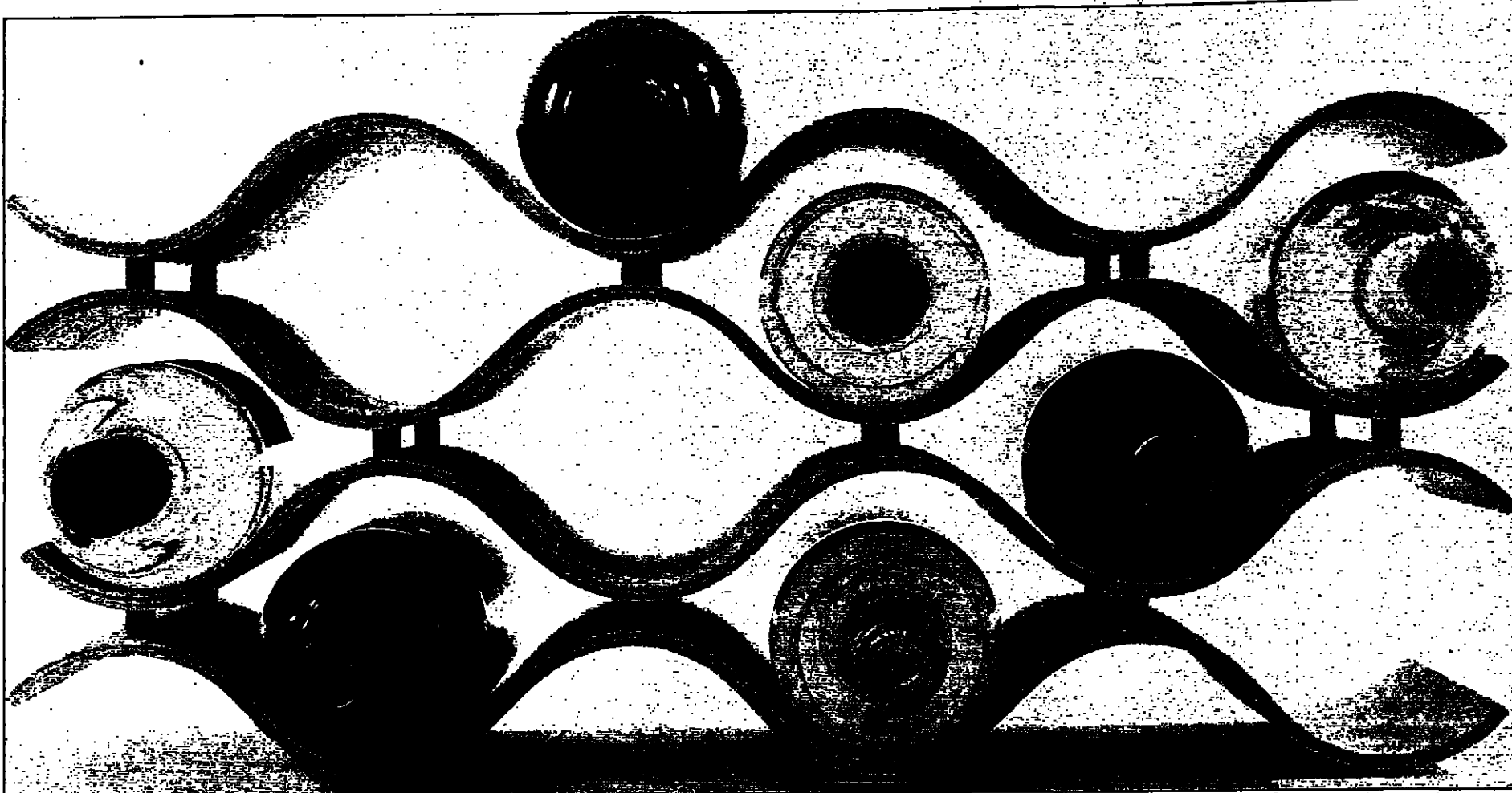
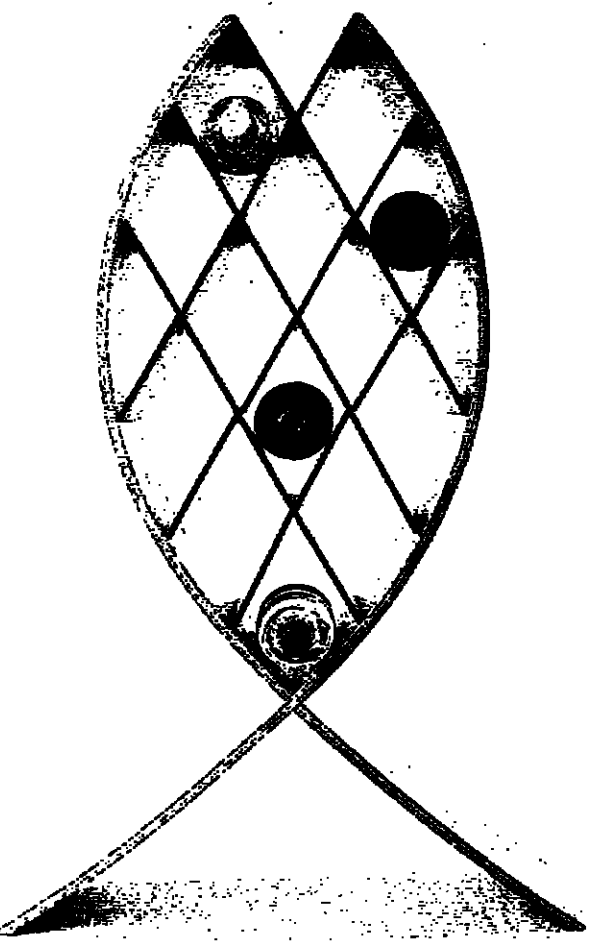
engaged in what appears to be a cross between ballet and bare-knuckle face-slapping. Sloggi is good, too. Scandinavia is the last word in pants — and the model even has chest hair.

Dadest brand-name: 20x/ist. The artist formally known as pants? These dubious people make a thing called a snap fly boxer brief. Frightening.

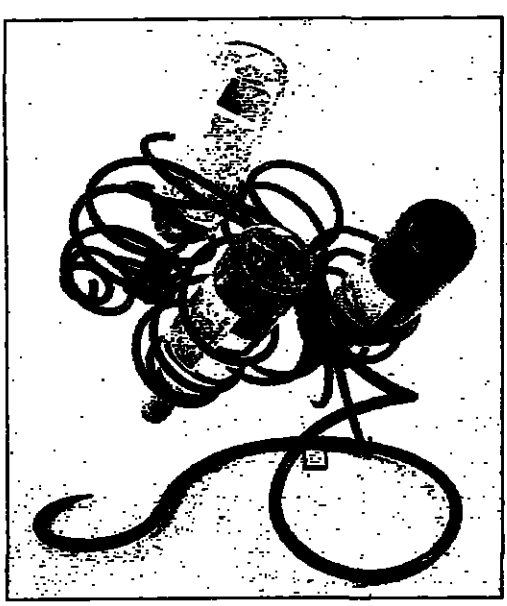
Perhaps it would be best to escape the designer jungle altogether, and head for M&S, the great panopolis. Three cotton slips cost £7.50, and you can buy two briefs for £7 safe in the knowledge that they are "quick drying to keep you cool and dry". At least they will know what you mean when you ask for Calvin Klein Lycra-mix, double-layered, pouch-fronted, leisure smalls.

Corking decor

The more expensive the wine, the more carefully it needs to be stored — somewhere dry and away from vibrations and temperature fluctuations, *Sophie Chamier* writes. But this is the age of supermarket buying for almost immediate consumption. These decorative wine racks are fine for everyday wines you intend to drink within six weeks or so. They are designed to look good on display in the (sometimes steamy) kitchen or (periodically sweltering) dining room, but they also perform a vital function in keeping the bottles on their side or at an angle. For, as everyone knows, you should never store a bottle of wine upright as the cork will dry out, oxygen will get inside and you will end up with vinegar.



ABOVE: The Bottle Shelf by Manufactory, from £55, in laminated beech with aluminium fittings. Extra layers can be added. From John Lewis, Oxford Street (0171-629 7711; mail order, 01273 488441)

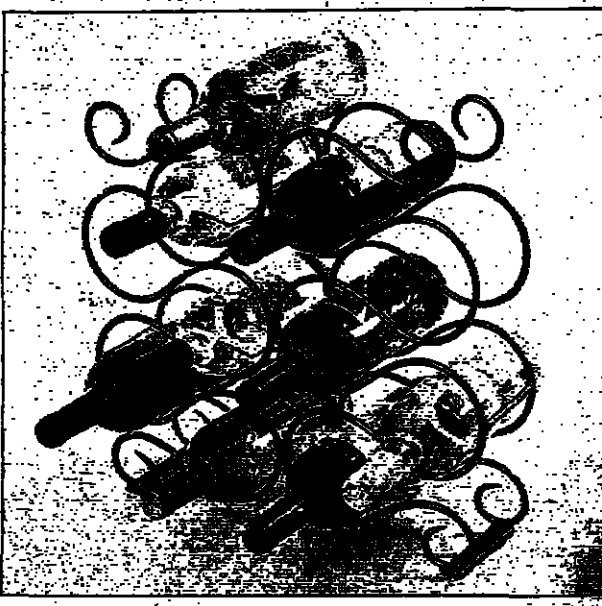


FAR LEFT: Drink Like A Fish wine rack by Jonathan Hoar, £247 (p&p £15), in beech laminate with birch ply inserts (01923 855882)

MIDDLE LEFT: A five-bottle wine rack with black waxed finished steel, £85 (inc p&p), from Biscia Design (01439 771702)

LEFT: A six-bottle wine rack, £19.95, from branches of Jerny's Home Store, 183 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-581 0909); Hampstead (0171-794 8622); Bantall's Centre, Kingston (0181-549 5383); and Harvey Nichols (0171-245 6251)

RIGHT: Curly metal ten-bottle wine rack, £16.95, from The Pier (0171-351 7100). A popular design with a speckled finish



'Councils roll over for Sainsbury'

Continued from page 1

questioned the integrity of the mayor and deputy mayor in particular. One woman wrote: "Our councillors should remember that they are on the council as servants of the public and to carry out the wishes of the residents of Shaftesbury, not to further their own business interests."

She also implied that the removal of the petrol station and cafeteria from the revised Sainsbury plan and the reduc-

tion of household items to be stocked was a direct result of their influence. "Our mayor has a café and does not drive a car and our deputy mayor has a hardware shop."

Ray Humphries made an emotional response to these accusations at a special council meeting attended by more than 30 members of the public. "Yes, I do have an interest — my interest in Shaftesbury as a community and what happens to it in the years

ahead. My heart has always been in Shaftesbury and that is where it will remain."

A member of his family, however, is firmly rooted on the other side of the fence. His cousin Paul Humphries is chairman of the football club which stands to gain if the planning applications succeed. Chelverton on behalf of Sainsbury has promised a new enclosed pitch and a 200-seater grandstand as part of a package swathed in secrecy

and speculation. Whether money has already changed hands in order that Sainsbury secures the option to build is not known; certainly it has not been denied.

Seen by many as the insidious side of big business which buys its way into peoples' lives through limitless resources, these inducements are defended by Paul Humphries: "When we came here in 1971 this land was not wanted by anyone. There's been a lot of hard work in that time. It's an expensive operation running four teams and although there's a lot of goodwill in the town there has been little financial support from the council. To compete in a higher league, we need an enclosed playing area and covered grandstand."

LONDON BEST

HOLLAND & HOLLAND

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Similarly the cricket club envisages a rosier future with the help of Sainsbury. Relocation forms part of a package that the team captain Guy Lowton resolutely defends: "We want to secure the future of cricket in Shaftesbury which at the moment is uncertain. We haven't as a club entered the great supermarket debate and the council has refused discussions with us even though developers have been talking to us for at least six years."

Every faction cites a different enemy and the accusations are many: councillors are undemocratic, traders are swayed by vested interest, football and cricket club members put their sport before their town, the public is misguided or reactionary, planning officials disregard the basic principles of government planning guidelines, and developers manipulate, make hollow promises and buy people loyalty.

Through all the mud slinging, the wrangling over details continues. Will three in ten supermarket shoppers really walk 300 metres to the start of the High Street after they have finished at Sainsbury's let alone 500 metres to its heart?

How will the road system cope with an additional 2,000 vehicles a day? Would trade be clawed back from other towns or would as protesters predict, some 20 shops be at risk?

As decision day dawned, private individuals were still noting precise measurements and timings with their stop watches, maps and compasses while Chelverton made 11th-hour revisions in an attempt to placate their opponents. The "non-food items," the cause of great concern to Shaftesbury traders, would constitute 10 rather than 15 per cent of the store and the sales area would be reduced by a further 2,000 square feet.

But gestures such as these do nothing to convince those who believe that their historic High Street will soon be laid waste by a supermarket twice the size of the existing central



For Paul Humphries, chairman of the football club

Against: his cousin Ray, deputy mayor, outside his shop

THE SUPERMARKET BOOM

SINCE guidelines introduced in June this year, sites for building supermarkets fall into three categories: town centre, the preferred option; edge of centre (within easy walking distance of the main shops), such as in Shaftesbury; and — the least desirable — sites well served by public transport. Revitalising town centres is central to the policy. Developers apply to the district council and if planning permission is refused, they can appeal to the Environment Secretary.

Since 1986 Sainsbury's has built 206 new stores of which 21 are in town centres, 47 are edge-of-town

and 138 are outside. Waitrose has opened 41 stores, some new and others in renovated buildings. Safeway has built 194 new stores in the past ten years, 49 per cent in town centres, 38 per cent in suburban areas and 13 per cent on the edge of a town. Tesco has opened 289 in the past ten years and hope to open a further 25 a year before the millennium. Asda has opened 66 new stores since 1986 and plan nine more by next April. In 1986, Britain had 432 supermarkets, more than 25,000sq ft in size. By 1996 it had 1,034.

Research by Caroline Griffiths

Fake fur is flying on the catwalks as today's designers develop a fluff fixation, says **Grace Bradberry**

A stroke of genius for the foxy lady

Fake fur trims and fluffy wools appeared in almost every designer collection for this winter. They ranged from the dowdy to the glamorous — from coarse fuzz to fake mink stoles. On every catwalk, a bit of fluff softened stark designs or gave a retro hippy twist to an otherwise plain, 1990s look.

Dolce & Gabbana showed fake fur stoles that took the models on a trip back to the 1950s, while Alberta Ferretti had little woolly cuffs and collars.

The shaggiest of the shaggy dog stories came from Clements Ribeiro, a British design team, which used pure Tibetan lambswool in its bohemian-inspired collection. Tip-pets — fur neck wraps — were the most conservative option, used by Christian Dior.

Overall, the fake fur and fake wool accessories were among the wittiest and most wearable things that designers had to offer, and they have made a smooth transition to the high street.

Earlier in the autumn, when temperatures were hovering well above zero, they might have seemed frivolous, even self-conscious. But they are now beginning to look alluringly cosy.

They are also a good way to bring life and fun to blocks of colours such as brown or cream, which could otherwise appear dull.

When temperatures rise again, several of these pieces will still be wearable because the cuffs and collars are detachable. The cream Desiré cropped cardigan, shown here, becomes positively spring-like when the wool trims come off, as does the Fenn Wright & Manson sweater.

The key to wearing fur or wool trims is to keep everything else simple. Do not mix a jacket with a skirt from elsewhere — instead, wear an entire suit.

Trimmed cardigans are much easier to wear with plain skirts, though it is more directional to mix them with patterns and go for the full bohemian look.

One of the disadvantages of wearing lots of fluff, however, is that it can end up wearing you. I chose this brown Karen Millen suit (below) because it is well-cut and the fur trims are so distinctive. But it was

also an attractive bury because the jacket can be worn partially unzipped, creating the deep V-neck that is fashionable now and ensuring that the Afghan-look trim can be worn slightly looser. On days when you are feeling under the weather, and any excess fluff is irritating, it can be removed.

The stretchy Morgan jacket and the dress are both wedded to their fur trims. But in the case of the dress, the relatively wide and slightly low neckline keep the fur at bay, well below the chin.

If you are happy with the clothes you have, and simply want to update them, then the best bet is a tippet, or a boa. Most of the leading

accessory names have produced fake fur tippets. Some look real, some do not. The most stylish are in blonde. Wear them with same-colour outfits and the effect will be chic, no matter how cheap the fake fur.



ABOVE: Peach tweed side-vent skirt, £45, by Jigsaw (0171-491 4484). Beige fur-trim chunky knit cardigan, £125, by Fenn Wright & Manson at Fenwicks



ABOVE: Cream fur trim cardigan, £75, by Désiré. Leopard print silk slip dress, £39, by August Silk Intimates, both from Fenwicks (0171-629 9161). **RIGHT:** Tan tweed jacket with blonde fur trim, £115, from Morgan (0171-436 5255). Copper Jersey a-line skirt, £88, by No Such Soul at Hype DF (0171-738 8538). Photographer: Steve Poole. Stylist: Deborah Brett. Make-up and hair: Nicky Tavilla at Terrie Tanaka for Shu-Uemura. Model: Sarah Holland at Models One

"A toast," he said, "to all that's elegant, vibrant, stylish, with hidden depths and a full, well-rounded body besides which all others must be measured."



Brown fake fur bobble hat, £119



Leopard fake fur coat, £299



Fake fur trimmed gloves, £69.
Bobble hat, leopard coat and
gloves all by Saint de Terán



Chocolate brown zip-front fur-trimmed jacket, £175, and matching trousers, £89.95, both by Karen

"For one glorious moment, I thought
he was talking about me."



LEAD EVASION

*Australian Chardonnay.
The fruit of 150 years' winemaking.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q I have been given some seed of a scented hosta. Please could you give advice on when and how to sow and care for them. — M. Mitchell, Fittleworth, Sussex.

A This will be *Hosta plantaginea*, a white-flowered species requiring great warmth to do well and flower. The blooms open in late afternoon and evening. The flower stems rise to about 30in, and the flower tubes themselves can be up to 5in long — much showier than your average hosta. Gertrude Jekyll recommended growing it in a tub stood outdoors for the summer.

Hostas are easy from seed. Store the seed in a cool place, then sow it in spring in a pot away from slugs, or in a row in shady ground with slugs controlled. Put the seedlings into pots when they have a few proper leaves, and when they are sturdy little plants bring them into the garden. They will take a few years to flower, but will make good foliage plants in the interim. Rich moist soil will speed them along.

Q I would like to buy some ground-cover roses for my husband's birthday, including 'Grouse' (pink) and 'Nozomi' (pale pink and white). Please would you advise. — K. Staples, Marlborough, Wilt.

A No rose provides real ground cover, but with a good mulch they may remain reasonably free of weeds beneath. When you do have to weed through these roses, it is a miserable job. 'Nozomi' may be very pretty but its hooked thorns are vicious. 'Grouse' romps off in all directions, up to 10ft, as does the single pink 'Max Graf'. You might like the new 'County Series' of roses. 'Surrey' grows to about 2ft tall and twice that across. It is a frilly double pink, and was full of bloom in my garden in November. 'Kent' is a double, open-centred white 3ft across. You may have seen the pink 'Flower Carpet' advertised as being disease-free. It is, but it is also a very ordinary flower. 'White Flower Carpet' has much more style, but just the same disease resistance. No spraying there. All are available from mail order rose growers.

Q Please advise me as to the best fertilisers for evergreens and coniferous trees. — K. McKewen, Darlington.

A Most coniferous trees are undemanding about soils. More important is the depth of soil and rainfall. So unless you have desperately poor soil, no feeding is necessary. Nine times out of ten conifers look poor because the site is too exposed or they are short of water. Some withstand bitter winds, some do not. Broad-leaved evergreens are another matter. Evergreen oaks and *Magnolia grandiflora* and even holly will benefit noticeably from a good rich soil and generous feeding. So will the smaller laurels, privets and viburnums. The best fertiliser is a good mulch of old rich compost.

Q In October we saw clumps of cyclamen flowering naturalised in the Cotswolds and were told this was *Cyclamen neapolitanum*. We tried to buy them in nurseries in the Cotswolds without success. Where can we obtain some, and will they grow here? — P. Tate, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne.

A They will certainly grow for you. Outdoor cyclamen corms are sold by mail order from specialist suppliers, or growing in pots from specialist herbaceous nurseries. They seed freely and a flowering corm in a pot will give you promise of many seedlings to come. Cyclamen have been taken from the wild in devastating numbers in recent years, and you should always be suspicious of corms larger than a 10p piece. (They can grow to a great size.) Dry corms are harder to establish, especially if they have been dried to desiccation, and I prefer to buy live plants. Flora and Fauna International, of Great Eastern House, Tenison Road, Cambridge CB1 2DT, publishes the *Good Bulb Guide*, which lists suppliers who pledge "never knowingly to sell wild bulbs".

Q Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.

Jane Owen offers seasonal advice for gardeners from the best tree to buy to courses and talks



The range of Christmas trees grows by the year, and the claims get wilder, but some varieties are better at keeping their needles and most, so long as they are freshly cut, smell of pine

Metric Christmas everyone

THIS YEAR you will no longer be able to buy a 6ft Christmas tree. For the first time you will have to buy a 150-175cm tree and I'm sure they'll be more festive for it — Metric Christmas everyone.

Whatever the size, here is the annual Christmas tree sermon. If you want to buy a growing tree, do so from a reputable agent. Containerised trees are not necessarily alive but Sainsbury's Homebase, for instance, buys trees which have been potted a full year before

they go on sale so they have had time to settle and start to grow. Keep the trees as far from heat sources as possible and in as cool a room as you can manage, whether or not the tree's supposed to be growing.

The range of trees grows by the year, and the claims get wilder, but some varieties are certainly better at keeping their needles and most, so long as they are freshly cut, smell of pine. If you give a tree a shake and some needles fall, don't buy it.

■ Blue Spruce is a pretty blue/green and has minimal needle drop but is the most expensive tree.

■ Norway Spruce is the traditional British Christmas tree. Bad needle drop but cheap.

■ Nordmann or Caucasian fir is a handsome regularly shaped tree with a slight blue tinge.

■ Serbian spruce has a slightly silvery look because the needles are pale blue underneath.

■ Scots Pine holds on to its long needles most successfully of all the trees mentioned here.

■ Noble fir is a fine deep blue/green colour with a regular shape and excellent needle retention.

■ Lodgepole pine sometimes comes with cones on the tree but it is a coarser, less regularly shaped tree than many and can show a hint of yellow.

■ The blue-grey White fir is claimed to smell of oranges when the needles are crushed. Maybe the ones I sniffed had been cut too long but I could smell only the usual pine.

GARDENER'S UPDATE

you will never be able to visit it because it was made on-screen with a programme called 3D Landscape V2 Deluxe CD-Rom (£99.95) which can "grow" my garden ten, 15 or 50 years from now. This ingenious software can tell where shade will fall at any time on any day of the year and it has a

selection of 2,200 trees, shrubs and flowers. It can call in information from the Internet and can take you on a 3D walk through your garden. Who needs endless television this Christmas when you could be building gardens until the days lengthen?

The picture you make, how-

ever, is crude. Plants are shown by symbols of annuals or shrubs rather than actual pictures. And I found it had trouble working on an Apple Macintosh — my neighbour had to spend four hours sorting out his computer after my gardening activities.

This is one of a collection of CD-Roms sold in Britain by Howitt and Mowit Distribution, which let me try several of the programmes, including

one designed for children called Forever Growing Garden. I was baffled but I'm sure children would be able to handle it. Details from Howitt and Mowit on 01380 848118.

Fair contest

SOMETHING to look forward to: a national plant fair on May 18, 1997. Now all you have to do is grow some plants for it. The National Trust is holding the fair at properties all over the country to raise £100,000 and plans to establish it as an annual event. Plants will be supplied by commercial growers and volunteers — that means you, so put aside a few extra seedlings this spring. Register as a grower and claim an information pack on 0181-315 1111 or send an SAE to National Trust Spring Plant Fair, PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent BR1 3XL.

Woman's work

KEW GARDENS is hosting a series of talks to celebrate 100 years of women gardeners. Gillian Cox will talk about the Great Vine at Hampton Court Palace on January 31. Sally Festing will lecture on Gertrude Jekyll on March 28 and Laura Ponsonby will talk about the influence of Kew on the women on March 21. Tickets are £3 a lecture from the shops at Kew or from Sarah Oldridge, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB.

In the frame

HARLOW CARR botanical gardens in Harrogate has regular gardening courses and shows. The visitor centre is currently exhibiting botanical drawings, paintings and photographs by students. The show is free and open until February 16 at Crag Lane, Harrogate, North Yorks HG3 1QB (01423 565418).

Big and tasty

MY COMMENT last month that giant vegetables rarely taste good has brought a challenge from Geoffrey Swaddle in Northumberland, who says his giant cabbages taste excellent. He sells the seed at £3 a packet but you will need space for these monsters, which can weigh 57lb. The seed, bred from the American giant strain, Tex, crossed with some British heavyweights that Mr Swaddle will not

name, should produce some prize-winners — but can anyone else vouch for the flavour of vast vegetables?

Mr Swaddle's tips are to set the seed in the greenhouse this Christmas and plant them out in March in as much well-rotted manure as you can lay your hands on. They do better in a wide open space, apparently. He eats his lightly boiled with gravy. For details ring Mr Swaddle on 01434 603212.

Tinsel time

THE Royal Horticultural Society will stage its Christmas show on December 10-11 at New Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1. Tinsel and artificial flowers will be allowed among the horticulturally elite exhibits and there will be a mass of gardening presents including topiary. RHS members free, non-members £5 on December 10 (10am-7pm), non-members £3 on December 11 (10am-5pm). For information ring 0171-821 3000.

Fantasy land

YESTERDAY I made a third of an acre garden, single handedly, in about two hours. It has a series of formal yew and box pyramids and balls, a vegetable garden and an interesting mixed border dotted with architectural plants, a fountain, greenhouse and barbeque.

My garden is splendid but

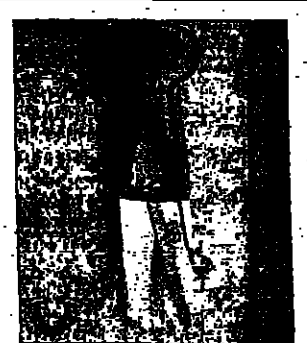
FIND OF THE MONTH

■ OK, so my latest find isn't modern. It is about 4,000 years since sheep shears were first used but just a few since they moved into the garden as Master Shear, which can be used for topiary, dead heading and edging. The blades are longer than secateurs, and the way they spring back into the cutting position makes them handier — and more dangerous — than scissors. They are also more robust than most garden scissors which, in this household, are constantly being snaffled by other members of the family for school projects. Nobody, however, would dare to take these. Master Shear costs £14.50 including p+p from Burgon & Ball (mail order, 01423 33262).



PLANT OF THE MONTH

■ *Lilium nepalense* was brought in from the Himalayas about ten years ago and has a mysterious-looking dark green flower with a purple-brown throat. It is tricky to grow but worth it. Plant in humus-rich soil without a trace of lime. Like most lilies it needs fast-draining soil. It may take a year to settle and needs deciduous shade and plenty of water during the spring and summer. In late summer it blooms and, if happy, produces up to six flowers per stem. Bulb specialist Jacques Armand has a good stock at £2.35 per bulb. For free catalogue and further information contact the Nurseries, Clump Hill, Starnmore, Middlesex HA7 3JS (0181-954 8138).



How to keep tabs on your plants

Edwardian push-in tags are back in fashion and essential if you want to avoid chaos

If you decide against using labels, you are asking for trouble unless you are obsessive about keeping a labelled garden plan up to date. If you decide in favour, the choice is huge both in terms of materials and style, although garden centres rarely have a comprehensive range so it is worth going direct to a specialist.

Alternatively, cut yoghurt pots into oblong strips for "push-in" labels or, with a loop of wire, hanging labels for trees and shrubs. This is a cheap system although I dislike splashes of pure white in the garden and, if, as some suggest, I push the labels deep into the ground so only the last centimetre is visible, I usually lose the labels altogether.

Wells and Winter has been in the business since the 1970s and manufactures many of the 32 different varieties of labels it sells. The family firm is run by Sir John Wells, the former Kent MP, and his wife, Lucinda.

Traditionalists will be delighted to hear that they have reintroduced the yellow wooden push-in labels (£2.20 for 50) which I remember my grandparents using. Mark them with pencil and they should last longer than plastic equivalents because, in frost and heat, plastic becomes brittle faster than wood rots. The company has tried to make plastic acceptable by dyeing it

standard push-ins to 9cm by 5cm rectangles suspended from metal legs. Prices start at 90p for ten in black or white.

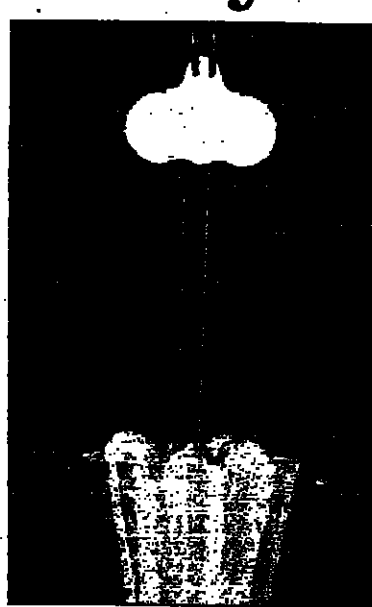
At the cheaper end of the range, at £2 for 100 push-ins, there are labels in eight bright colours which are particularly useful for colour-coding dahlia tubers, or groups of plants — so long as you can remember what the codes stand for.

In the past 15 years Edwardian-style labels have become fashionable and Wells and Winter sells these in zinc from £5 for ten stick-ins. Aluminium oblongs with a pointed end to stab into the ground sell at £1.50 for ten.

Stylish black labels — tags of stick-ins (100 for £4.80) — come with a scribbler for scratching the writing on and, for those with serious money and plant collections, there are the black and white engraved labels as seen in most botanic gardens, from £2.50 each.

Sir John's personal favourites are copper hang-ons (£11 for 100), simple copper oblongs which are attached to trees and shrubs with a loop of wire and are marked with a ball point. They weather to an attractive grey-green. The firm also sells fun labels, such as rabbit or hedgehog shapes on a metal pole to stick into the ground (£3.50).

J. Q.



Plain zinc (left) and etched zinc labels (both £5 for ten, Wells and Winter)



WEEKEND TIPS

■ Check pelargoniums and fuchsias brought indoors for the winter. Remove dead leaves, keep cool, light, and give the very minimum of water.

■ Strawberries grown in pots for early cropping will be sufficiently chilled by now and may be brought under glass.

■ Put into store for the winter any garden pots or ornaments which are not frost-proof.

■ Lightly mow lawns with a lightweight rotary mower only in dry, windy weather.

■ Pick flowering sprigs of winter jasmine, witchhazel, *Viburnum farreri* and *Viburnum tinus*.

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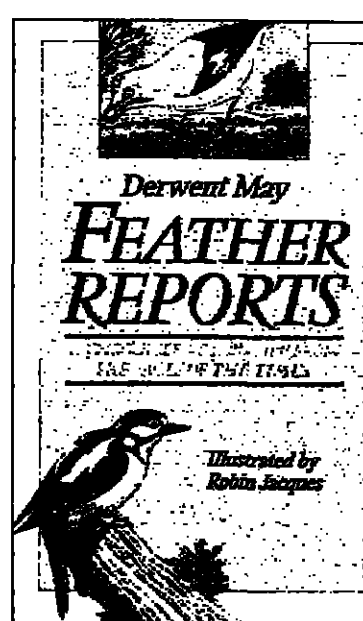
IN this evocative book, based on his popular weekly column in *The Times*, Derwent May chronicles the ups and downs, the highs and lows of birdlife in Britain. *Times* readers can buy Feather Reports for £10.95, saving £2 on the normal price. The author has long been regarded as an expert on nature and the countryside, a memorable writer in the great tradition of such naturalists as Gilbert White and W. H. Hudson. He portrays the ways of birds with the freshness of an observant eye and the knowledge of an expert ornithologist.

May has collected typical reports from his column and used them as a basis to provide a vivid account of the changing scenes for birds throughout the year. He leads you month by month on a journey capturing the pleasure to be had simply watching birds.

From the humble blue tit in the garden to the more exotic species found of wilder habitats, Feather Reports has something for everyone, from the most ardent ornithologist to those who just enjoy the comings and goings of our feathered friends.

The book is illustrated by delicate black and white line drawings by the late Robin Jacques which accompanied the articles in *The Times*.

Feather Reports would make a delightful present to yourself if you are already interested in birds and an excellent first book to anyone you know who has not been introduced to the mystery and magic of bird watching.



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WEEKEND TIPS

Haven that came out of the woods

The beauty of a garden in full flush of colour and leaf often masks the problems that a successful gardener has overcome. Beth Chatto, the doyenne of creative problem solvers, is no slouch in that area and has not only overcome the difficulties of the site, soil and climate of her Essex garden near Elmstead Market, but she shares the solutions with her garden's visitors.

Her challenging two-hectare (five acre) garden has been since 1960 the breeding ground for her plant ideas and gardening techniques. She has coped with dry sites in full sun, damp sites in shade and sun, and lately with dry shade in the Wood Garden. At every turn, the gardens she has created are evidence of her success in choosing plants adapted to these conditions, that provide the perfect plant solutions for her garden problems.

Although hers is a large palette, the problems she encounters are the same as those found in any garden. "I hope that home gardeners can see that we are struggling with the same conditions that they have. In some areas we have great success, but it is often an uneven struggle and not every part of the garden is perfect," she says.

Her latest problem-solving offering is in the Wood Garden, which she opened to the public for the first time this year. The wood, at the property's furthest border, was once her own private refuge, away from the nursery and the rest of the garden. Don't expect to find a totally natural woodland here, rather, what Mrs Chatto describes as "a wood garden where the shade is used to grow plants from woodland situations all around the temperate world, including Russia, Japan, Canada and France. I have combined them so that they provide a seasonal effect".

She began working on this area about six years ago, when storms culled some of the oaks and allowed more light in. There were still problems, however, because the soil was light and sandy, dried quickly and was not humus-rich. In addition, low rainfall, biting north-east winds, cool winters and very

Problems with site, soil or climate? Beth Chatto has solutions



Beth Chatto: creative doyenne

hot summers seemed at first to preclude the use of choice woodland plants. There is some extra irrigation into this area now, but even so the real moisture-lovers of the shade brigade, such as rhododendron and blue Himalayan poppies, will not thrive here.

She came to the rescue though, with a list of plants that do fit the bill and will grow well in such a daunting environment. It is at its most colourful in spring and early summer but still has much to offer in autumn and winter when foliage, stems, berries and seedheads provide the dazzle of the display and autumn crocus and snowdrops, in turn, make the ground level glow. Like other parts of her garden, the Wood Garden holds many lessons for fellow gardeners.

For Mrs Chatto, the essential at the start of any new garden project is the improvement of the soil. In this situation it involved the addition of bulky organic compost and, once the plants were in place, a surface mulch, mainly of crushed bark (straw is cheaper) was added beneath trees and shrubs. The mulch, which helps retain moisture, also acts as a weed deterrent and gives an attractive natural look to the overall finish. Even though the soil has been improved, it is still

light in quality and Mrs Chatto uses plants like epimediums, vinca and hellebores, with good foliage and attractive spring and winter flowers, that do well in such soil. Overall, she favours plants with a wide variety of foliage, form and shape, so that there is always something to see, even when the flowers are over. In late winter and early spring, when the oak leaf canopy is non-existent, the main attraction is the ground-cover of snowdrops, species narcissi, dog's tooth lilies, hellebores and aconites.

In late spring and early summer, when leaves shut out the natural light, she switches on the wood's own lighting system using silver, gold and variegated foliage, to provide the spotlights and tall spikes of white foxgloves and marigolds, the green-yellow fists of various euphorbia and the feathery plumes of *Arenaria dioica* to act as glowing torches.

Then, too, fountains of honey-suckle, including *Lonicera tatarica* with its honey-yellow flowers and roses such as Rosa 'Bobby James' and 'Paul Himalayan Musk' in full flower, cascade from tree trunks, scenting the air and filling the view.

Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire' provides red leaves in autumn and red shoots in winter, while *Amelanchier lamarckii* follows its springtime flowers with a blaze of foliage. Frink-tinged white berries are autumn ornament of the Hopsal rowan, *Sorbus lupulina*. Providing flower colour at the higher levels are various forms of Japanese anemone, hellebore (*Cimicifuga simplex*) and *Kirengeshoma palmata*, whose shuttlecock-like flowers hang in clusters.

In any of Mrs Chatto's large-scale plantings there are always many layers. The delight for the gardener of small sites, such as patios, basement gardens and back door areas, is that there are usually "take-away" plant combinations at the nursery that can solve the same problems at home.

BARBARA SEGALL



Beth Chatto's wood garden at Elmstead Market is a breeding ground for planting techniques

FACT FILE

THE Beth Chatto Gardens and Nursery, Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex CO7 7BD are open 9am-5pm, Monday to Saturday, March 1 to October 31, and 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday, November 1 to February 28. Closed Saturdays and Bank Holidays. Admission £2, children free. Coach parties are welcome by appointment, but they must write first to the secretary in advance of the planned visit.

WHAT TO SEE

Gravel Garden

This was once a car park but is now a well established garden where drought-resistant plants are on display throughout the year.

Water Gardens

Large-leaved water-edge or marginal plants, such as *Cannera manicata* and the American skunk cabbage, dominate the scene from spring to autumn.

Mediterranean Gardens

Near the house a collection of drought-resistant plants thrive, offering good colouring through summer into autumn.

Wood Garden

At the furthest boundary of the property honeysuckle and roses gain a high ground via tree trunks, while at ground level snowdrops in spring and striking foliage plants in summer and autumn carry the show forward.

BUYING PLANTS

You can either buy direct from the wide selection at the nursery or mail order through the garden catalogue, *Unusual Plants*. There is a minimum purchase of £20 worth of plants plus postage and packing.

GARDEN FRIENDS

Regular visitors can become Friends of the Garden and buy an annual season ticket, costing £7.50 (single) or £10 (double), which admits the ticket holder and a guest.

CARDS AND BOOKS

Cards showing views of the various gardens are on sale and cost £1.25. Also on sale are Beth Chatto's classic books, *The Damp Garden*, *The Dry Garden*, *The Green Tapestry* and *Beth Chatto's Garden Notebook*. A recently produced video, *My Garden*, is available from the nursery shop.

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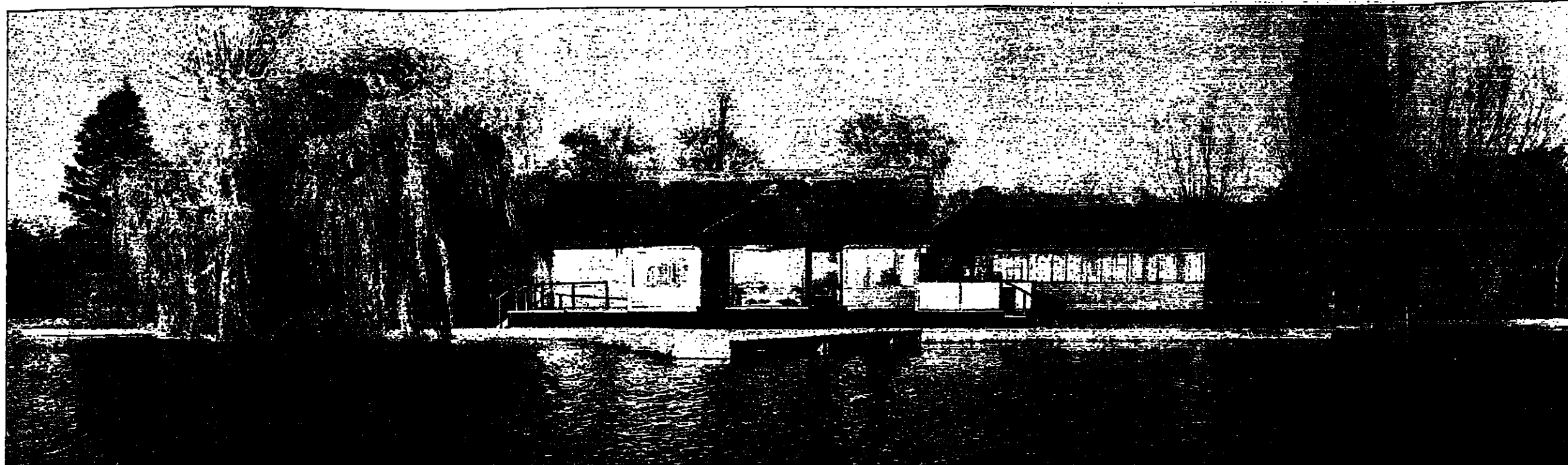
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A turn-of-the-century boathouse on the Norfolk Broads has become a splendid five-bedroom retreat



Sheerwater can be reached by land but is best approached by boat. The house, which has a strong nautical theme, is for sale through Savills at £325,000. Since the nearest house is 400 yards away, peace seems guaranteed

Window on a waterworld

Just as the prow of our launch swung out into Wroxham Broad, a marsh harrier coasted steadily above the silvery water. A family of moorhens bobbed and ducked, not far from a crested grebe. It is possible to walk to Sheerwater through a woodland path but by far the best way to approach this truly enticing house is by boat. We left our car at the finger-end of an inlet, and five minutes gentle motoring had the whole broad in view, with Sheerwater at its northern end.

The Norfolk Broads, long assumed to be a natural feature, are now thought by some to be the result of medieval peat-diggings. Whatever their origin, they are a haven for sailors and lovers of wildlife. Sheerwater offers a remarkable setting for exploring this corner of England.

I spent the summers of my youth on the lakes in Maine, and nothing I have seen in England reminded me so much of those idyllic days as this Norfolk retreat.

Built as a wet boat house with living accommodation at the turn of the century, the house has gradually become a five-bedroom home while still retaining a strong nautical flavour. It is pine-panelled throughout.



The kitchen has pale oak cabinets and blue-tiled work surfaces

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Sheerwater, Wroxham, Norfolk • Price: £325,000
● **Setting:** eight miles NE of Norwich (regular trains from London Liverpool Street; journey time approximately two hours)
● **Shopping:** Norwich, not renowned for nightlife, offers museums, theatre and a fine cathedral. Wroxham has shops, banks and a sailing club on the River Bure, which connects with the Broads network. Heaving shopping onto a boat, rather than bus, does make a nice change but the seasick-prone, beware.

We lashed our launch to the deck and climbed out onto the quay heading which juts out over the broad: already I could imagine summer afternoons lazing on the deck. A walk around this long, slim house (a design that gives most rooms

windows facing both north and south) reveals its two faces: there is a strip of woodland at the back, with weeping willows and swamp cypresses, that overlooks another narrow cut of water — where wet and dry boat-houses

can be found. The area, including this inlet, is about 3.4 acres, and the nearest house is 400 yards away — peace and quiet seem guaranteed.

But it was only on entering the house that I truly appreciated its extraordinary situation. The sitting room, 30ft across, faces south, east and west — there is glass all around, and a view down the broad that stretches uninterrupted for nearly a mile.

The pine panelling is painted white, the carpet is creamy pale: a comfortable green sofa stretches out in front of the largest, south-facing window as if it were a giant screen — and it is. Who would need television or cinema when you could sit here for hours, watching the birds and the water and darkening sky? A thunderstorm would be a *son et lumière*.

There is no fire, but plenty of new radiators; although Sheerwater does have the feel of a summerhouse it seemed as if it would be easy in winter too — if you didn't mind a chilly cruise first to reach it.

The master bedroom, also decorated in white, faces south, west and north: a shipwright has installed a fine teak surface at the north wall and a porcelain sink, reinforcing the impression of a particularly spacious cabin.

This is by far the best of the bedrooms: the other four are small and serviceable, though with good fitted cupboards and drawers for storage. In the smaller bedrooms (particularly the easternmost, at present painted mint green), the panelling can seem a little overwhelming, even if you are happy to imagine yourself on board ship.

Each end of the house has a good expanse of south-facing verandah: this is a home where it would be just as easy to be outdoors as in. The low-ceilinged master bathroom

has been modernised but retains sturdy green fixtures that look as if they date from the 1950s (was this the colour that came before avocado?) and has a wooden parquet floor: the smaller, eastern bathroom has an inviting sunken bath.

The kitchen, which, like the bathrooms, was given a thorough overhaul by the present owners, is a wonderful room, with windows north and south, a generous expanse of blue-tiled work surface and pale oak cabinets.

There is an electric hob — Sheerwater is not connected to gas. But its new owner won't have any water bills — it draws its own supply from a borehole, and in the boot-room/workroom off the kitchen, a water treatment cylinder nestles next to the new electric boiler.

Kitchen and bathrooms are not all that has been renewed. The present owner, a restaurant designer, bought the house in 1983, and since then has rewired and replumbed the property entirely, as well as redressing the thatch. The house is long past the fragile

impermanence of the boat-house accommodation that was its beginning.

This is a house to buy for space and light — for mornings boating on Wroxham broad, and afternoons watching the sun set over the water. It would be bought in the knowledge that there will be no others like it — planning permission for such a house would never be given now, and it is surely destined to remain in isolated splendour.

The price tag of £325,000 is not small, certainly for Norfolk, but it would be a privilege to live here. A visit to Sheerwater was an escape to silence and the natural world that seems barely separated from the house itself: there is nothing between you and the wood and water but thin panes of glass.

We cast off from the quay as the sun began to set. Behind us, the windows flashed like jewels, like the glittering broad, in the low winter light.

Erica Wagner
For sale through Savills
Norwich, 01603 612211



The 30ft sitting room has glass all around and an uninterrupted view of the broad for nearly a mile. Even in winter it is filled with light

PROPERTY NEWS

■ A THIRD of a million people each year move house without hiring a removal firm, according to Pickfords. The firm has launched Selfmove, a service providing vehicles with tail-lifts and packing materials, and a help pack with video. For a brochure ring 0800 901010.

■ THE latest *Which? Guide to Renting and Letting* published last week (*Which?* Books, £10.99) offers advice for landlords and tenants on the 1996 Housing Act, part of which gives landlords the automatic right to evict tenants.

■ ONE in seven rural households live in private rented accommodation, says a report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, compared with one in 11 in urban areas. Just 16 per cent of private rented accommodation is furnished in rural areas, compared with 43 per cent in urban areas.

■ GARAGES in London can cost 50 per cent more per square foot than the residential properties around them, according to agent Douglas & Gordon in Chelsea. The firm recently sold a garage in Chelsea for £70,000 on a 29-year lease.

■ MORE than half the members of the National Association of Estate Agents think the standard of local education facilities influences house prices, according to a recent survey, with many buyers looking at schools before houses.

■ THE Middle River, a six-mile salmon-rich stretch of the River Beaulieu, ten miles north-west of Inverness, is for sale through Knight Frank (0131-225 8171), offers over £500,000.

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SELLING POINTS

No home should be without one. It is the place where award-laden actors claim to carelessly toss their Oscars while more ordinary mortals found solace gazing upon fading cartoons that were once side-splittingly funny.

For others with a more practical bent a downstairs lavatory is a necessity. If a small child is caught short, the extra scramble to get upstairs to the bathroom could spell disaster, while the potential for family rows is high if one bathroom has to serve in the preschool, pre-work rush hour.

A convenient convenience is also so much more handy when entertaining, and you can spare your guests the embarrassment of stumbling about upstairs trying to find the right door to the lavatory.

If you are selling your house, a downstairs lavatory is an asset you should show off to prospective buyers, say estate agents. It may be the proverbial smallest room but has a universal appeal. Over a certain price level, many buyers insist on it.

An extra lavatory is also a helpful addition for househunters who may be elderly or perhaps less mobile and find

THE DOWNSTAIRS LOO



A downstairs cloakroom adds value

climbing stairs more difficult. And a downstairs cloakroom is also a logical addition if you are offering your house for sale with the potential for an extra bedroom on the ground floor.

In the popularity stakes adding an extra lavatory or whole bathroom ranks

as the third most common addition by home owners, behind the perennial attractions of a new kitchen or double glazing.

It may also enhance the value, particularly if you can squeeze in a lavatory in an unused space such as under the stairs or in a basement and do not need to sacrifice room anywhere else.

The cost of installing an extra lavatory will vary considerably depending on the ease of access to outside drains and cold water supply, but you can expect to pay around £500. The cost of the lavatory itself will start at around £100 — much more if you have a penchant for a mahogany loo seat or gold fittings.

You can even squeeze in an extra loo in a more difficult space such as a cellar. A loo with a special pumping unit attached can overcome the problem of the room being below ground level or some distance from pipes.

Once installed, you can hunt out your cycling proficiency certificates and half-finished jumbo crossword puzzle to add the final decorative touch.

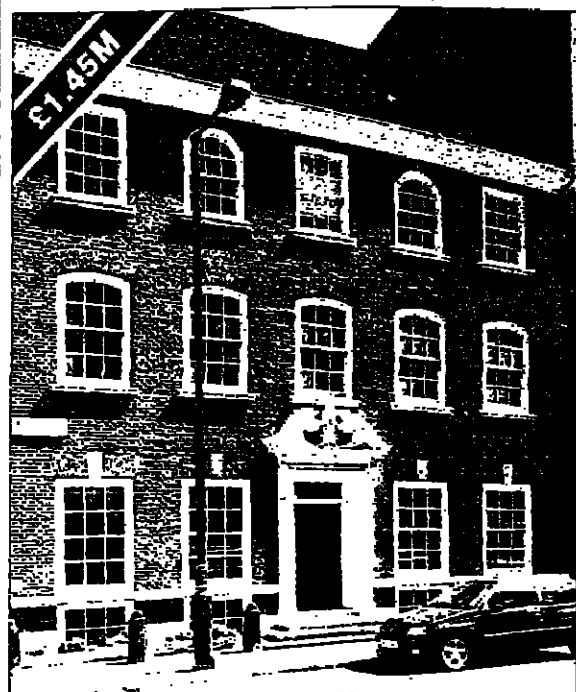
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CHERYL TAYLOR

Inner-city residential areas are up-and-coming. Rachel Kelly looks at the rebirth of Clerkenwell

ADRIAN GERRATT



Development of Clerkenwell is taking on an American flavour with abandoned factories being converted into loft-style flats, echoing New York's trendy SoHo area

Some call it London's new Notting Hill. Others label it the capital's version of TriBeCa or SoHo in New York. Whatever you dub it, Clerkenwell has become the focus of property developers and the fashionable set.

The former industrial buildings of the area close to the City, encompassing Smithfield and some City fringes, are being transformed, blurring the line dividing residential west London and professional east London.

One of the busiest developers in the area is Bee Bee Developments, creator of some of the most dramatic loft conversions. It has recently bought the Clerkenwell Estate, a shabby eight-acre site, to refurbish tenanted commercial buildings and turn others into homes.

Alfie Butler, who works for the company, says: "People now want to live in central London again. The inner city is coming back to life. I am moving to Clerkenwell because it is such good value with a village feel."

"When you think that by the year 2003 the country will need four towns the size of Milton Keynes to cope with the demand for housing, it's vital that places like Clerkenwell start living again. The development of inner cities is helping to stop the cancer of urban sprawl."

Jon Spitteri owns the St John Restaurant in Clerkenwell, which occupies about half a block by Smithfield. "In terms of space Clerkenwell is perfect," he says.

"People are fed up with the traditional residential areas and want to move away yet still be in touch. There is a cosmopolitan mix of people here - City workers rub shoulders with artists and architects. It's unpretentious and refreshing."

A hint of New York in old London town

Ben Richardson is the managing director of Metro Imaging, a company specialising in photographic processing, and has been in the area for eight years. "There is a creative, media-orientated atmosphere in Clerkenwell," he says. "It makes urban living interesting, and although the area can sometimes seem a bit gritty in places, it has managed to retain a certain charm."

Stephen Hurford, of the estate agent Hurford Salvi & Carr, emphasises the area's convenience. "You live in a community, but yet you can walk to the City in five minutes, while Soho is only 15 minutes away. The place is really taking off. We have 17 developments going on, and have already sold two. It is going wild. The place is alive."

Developments include a new scheme in St John Street by The City Loft Company. Flats in the first phase are being sold for £100 a square foot. The building was previously the Dr Scholl shoe factory. Built in the 1950s, in red brick with steel frame windows, 20 flats are planned, with parking spaces in the basement. There will be four split-level penthouses, thanks to the addition of two new levels.

Other developers include Pamillon Properties, which, with Frogmore,



Lindsay Etchells: struck by strong sense of community

has several sites. Another developer is Manhattan Lofts, which pioneered conversion with its Summer Street conversion in 1992.

New Riverhead, a joint venture by the Berkeley Group, Manhattan Lofts and Thames Water, has flats on Rosebery Avenue from £100,000 in a

six-storey Grade II listed building. Residents praise the area. Hilary Gibbs, a wine merchant, has lived here for 14 years. "Although we miss out on greenery and parks, Clerkenwell is central and convenient," she says.

"I love living here. While you are not constantly bumping into people you know, there is a relatively stable population. Many of the old shops are still run by the same people, which means that you get the service. My dry cleaner will deliver if I am too busy to pick it up."

In August 1994, Lindsay Etchells and her partner moved from a flat in Balham, south London, to a derelict building in Clerkenwell. Despite its inner-city location the couple believe that the place has maintained its village atmosphere.

"Since moving in we have been struck by the strong sense of community that exists among residents of all ages and backgrounds, which everyone is committed to maintaining," they say.

In July there is the annual Clerkenwell festival, which includes concerts, tea dances and a traditional fair.

The Etchells' house, typically in an

area known for its artisan workshops and studios, had been used as a printing works for more than 80 years. "We do not believe that we could have found such an unusual building with so much potential anywhere else."

It was this mix of residential alongside commercial premises that drew the couple to Clerkenwell, believing that it would have a more continental feel to it.

"We thought the area would have a different atmosphere during the week when it is bustling with workers, compared with the weekends. This has been the case and the weekends are extremely quiet and pleasant," they say.

The area is well served by local shops and businesses. "Clerkenwell has strong associations with the Italian community and there are some superb and friendly family-run Italian delis close by."

"There are also some excellent restaurants and more appear to be opening by the day. After working long hours, there is nothing better than walking home in ten minutes and, if the fridge is bare, popping into The Peasant or Stephen Bull for a meal."

The couple have only one fear: that the area's increasing popularity and trendiness will adversely affect its character. "Part of Clerkenwell's attraction is that it is a mixed inner-city community with all that entails. It is not another Hampstead or Highgate village and hopefully never will be."

● City Loft Company, 0171-613 1000. Bee Bee Developments, 0171-336 0202. Manhattan Lofts, 0171-631 8888. Pamillon Properties, 0181-349 1991.

● Additional research by Helen Walters



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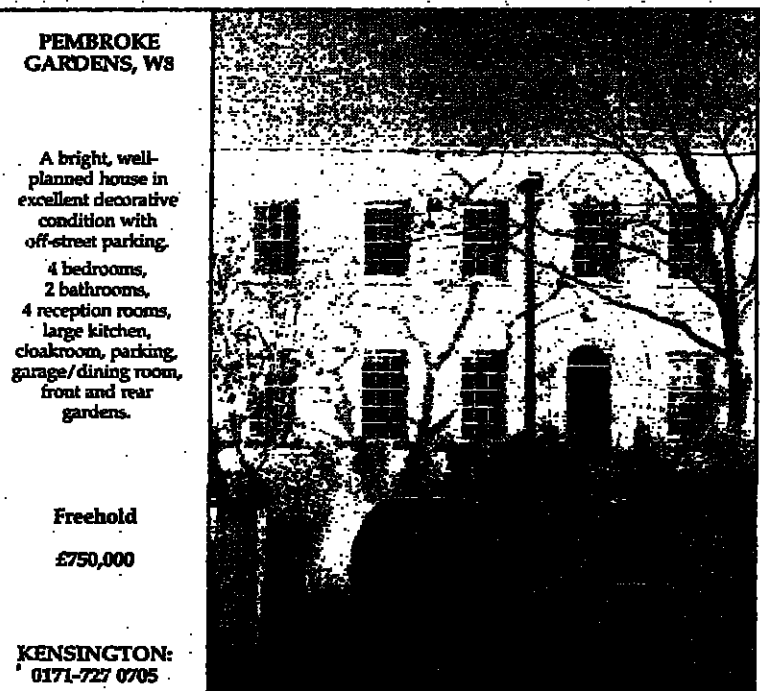
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Christmas is coming and the children want a pet. Jill Parkin has advice not to be sneezed at

Pets for allergic families

VET WRITES

Q Pepl, my white miniature poodle, has brown stains below both eyes. A poodle breeder said it is blocked tear ducts and I should ask my vet to clear them. Is this correct?

A The tear duct is a tiny tube leading from the inside corner of the eye to the back of the nose — an overflow pipe for tears. If it is blocked the tears overflow, dry on the hair and turn brown on exposure to air. Your vet could carry out a dye test to see if the ducts are blocked. It is possible to anaesthetise a dog so that the vet can pass a probe to reopen a blocked duct.

Q I bought sandpaper-covered perches for my budgie, Bert, to keep his nails worn down but he tears them to pieces and I'm sure he eats some. Why does he do this and will it harm him?

A Budgies chew — especially on wood. Bert's got nothing to do all day when you are out. I don't think the sandpaper will harm him — the sand provides extra grit. Twigs or branches from fruit trees, hazel or willow would be better and cheaper. He could chew the bark with total safety and gripping these natural perches would be excellent exercise for his toes and manicure his nails as well. Best of all, think about getting another bird as company.

Q Our rabbits — Bill and Ben — had colds. Our vet diagnosed "snuffles", gave them an antibiotic injection and powder to put in the drinking water. They're better, but Bill has a yellow discharge from his nose. Could the children catch anything from him?

A "Snuffles" is common in rabbits and almost impossible to eradicate. Most infected rabbits manage to live with their infection and have a happy, if smelly, life. It's a rabbit problem — no risk to children.

JAMES ALLCOCK
Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 6RN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

It is time to nuzzle Father Christmas on behalf of all those parents who sneeze and splutter when they are around fur and feather. The chap with the long beard (nasty itchy thing) must show more imagination when it comes to giving pets to children.

My daughter, aged five, wants something small and furry to look after. Her baby brother is proving hard to domesticate, so she wants a more tractable creature. In principle, I am in favour. Pets teach children about responsibility and caring. I do not want to stunt her psychological growth.

But I am allergic to a lot of household pets. Cats, dogs, cockatiels — you name it, they reduce me to a runny-nosed, sneezing heap. Even my step-daughter's jodhpurs set me off. I never go to a pet-owner's house without my homeopathic dust-drops.

There are many of us about. We are triggered by the hair, by the mites, by the dust. It is worse than it used to be because central heating is now common, which means pets are in a year-round moult.

If you are allergic, your choice of pet is decidedly limited. As a child I buried more goldfish than the next door neighbour's dog did bones. And fins and scales are not cuddly. It did not teach me how to care, just how to make crosses out of lolly sticks.

The good news to pass on to Santa is that there are breeds and species less likely to bother us sensitive types. Those genteel old ladies with their pet poodles are in the know. Poodles — and the poodle-like bichon frisé — have a wool coat, rather than hair. They need trimming, but they hardly moult. Good for the householder and the rhinitis sufferer.

So are old English sheepdogs, curly coated retrievers, Irish water spaniels and Kerry blues, which look like a terrier. The only doggy house where I can sit down to a meal without a box of tissues is home to a curly retriever. It also has no fitted carpets, lots of open windows and a big garden.

If dogs make you sneeze, the chances are cats will send you into orbit, even if you are sensitive enough not to touch them. Cats delight in spotting allergic guests and jumping onto their laps. The only cat breeds we should consider are Cornish and Devon rexes.

Santa would need a stout sack for the pet which Anne McLoughlin, of



Roger Meek with an Australian blue tongue skink. He says: "Skinks are allergy free, easy to look after and like being held"

the British Veterinary Zoological Society, recommends. "I've never heard of anyone who is allergic to white rats. They make good pets. They like people and respond to their names."

"Rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas and chipmunks are all highly allergenic, and cats tend to be more so than dogs. Caged birds can be bad too, because of their feather dust and the seed husks of the food they eat."

"Remember that even if you go for something like a gerbil or a guinea pig, which are not as bad, you may still be affected by their bedding. If hay and straw affect you, they would be no good either."

"I've never heard of allergies to fish or reptiles. But remember that reptiles have a long life. A hamster dies after a couple of years. A

tortoise can live for 80 years," Ms McLoughlin says. So before you buy an iguana for your child, remember it will not leave home before they go to university.

At this time of year, the RSPCA repeats its chant allergenic, and cats tend to be more so than dogs. Caged birds can be bad too, because of their feather dust and the seed husks of the food they eat.

But, according to Roger Meek, a reptile specialist at Huddersfield Technical College, the blue-tongued Australian skink is an exception.

"Allergy-free and easy to look after," he enthuses. "They're omnivorous. And, unlike most reptiles, they're not nervous. They like being held. We have girls on animal care courses here who cradle them like babies. They're about a foot long, excluding the tail. Lovely temperament. So has the Royal python."

In the end, there is one sure allergy test: "Road-test the animal," says Dr Ann McBride, of the Anthrozoology Institute of Southampton University. "Go along to the breeder, the pet shop or another owner, handle the animal and see what happens. It's extremely upsetting for owner and animal if a new home has to be found."

An expert in aggression in rabbits, among other things, she recommends waiting until your

child is seven or eight before buying a small soft pet. "The family dog is fine, but little children have no idea how hard they are gripping or how much force they are using. That can lead to fear and aggression in the animals," she says.

And an allergy-free pet when the child is bigger? "Rats are very good. Highly intelligent." Call me narrow-minded, but I cannot bring myself round to the idea of a pet rat. Meantime, the woman in our local pet shop suggests a gerbil or an angora goat — kept outside — for my daughter.

Even gerbils make me sneeze. That is why, during the school holidays, I once filled my mother's casserole dish with warm water and resorted to shampooing our class pet. It will have to be the goat. And probably a very big dish.

SPONSOR A PET



Christopher: found in a ditch

THE National Canine Defence League has launched a Sponsor a Dog scheme, which enables people who do not have the space or time to give a dog a home to sponsor one instead.

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Christopher is a lurcher, aged six, who was found in a ditch, unable to stand. He is a gentle and loving dog who enjoys walks but has proved hard to rehomed. Contact NCDL Dumfries (01387 770346).

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Latch on to those lymphs

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING

It could be tricky to write objectively about kinesiology, a therapy which tests muscles to analyse an individual's health. When I left my chosen kinesiologist, Jane Gothard, she kissed me goodbye.

Though we had never met before, I had bonded for two hours with the supremely sympathetic Ms Gothard, so the farewell did not seem odd. But it is hard to disentangle feelings about the treatment and my liking for her.

She is a blonde New Zealander of 34 who turned to kinesiology when she was covered in eczema and acne and conventional medicine had failed. Six weeks after visiting a kinesiologist and abandoning dairy products, red meat, caffeine and alcohol her complexion turned to the peaches-and-cream perfection that it is today. That was nine years ago.

She spent £3,000 training for two years with the Association of Systemic Kinesiologists and has been practising for five years.

The system was devised in 1964 by Dr George J. Goodheart, an American chiropractor. Even conventional doctors test the strength and range of movement of muscle-damaged patients. Kinesiologists do the same tests by holding a limb aloft to isolate a relevant muscle elsewhere and getting the patient to pull in the opposite direction. They part company with conventional doctors when they claim that the way a limb resists pressure reveals the patient's general, rather than just their muscular, health.

If a limb responds weakly, then there is an imbalance in a corresponding organ. If the limb can resist the pressure, then the corresponding body part is healthy. The kinesiologist investigates the various organs and finds hidden imbalances.

Like acupuncturists, kinesiologists believe that a balanced body runs on an unimpeded flow of energy. Each of the important organs and systems is fuelled by one of 12 energy channels or meridians, which combine to form an energetic network which links the mind, organs, muscles and body systems.

Excess stress can block a meridian, which leads to weakness or imbalance in the related body parts, which register in the muscle that is

linked to them. The kinesiologist claims to correct these weaknesses by applying pressure to points on the body, especially the lymph glands, to stimulate blood, lymph and energy flow.

The good bit is that in theory you immediately feel better after a visit and a rub to the lymph glands. The bad bit is that part of the treatment to rebalance those misbehaving organs is nutritional, and this can mean abandoning some of your favourite things.

I lay flat on a couch in Ms Gothard's serene sitting room and enjoyed her bedside manner and hoped she could help reduce my stress and clear my complexion. Kinesiologists claim to cure tiredness, digestive problems, aches, stiffness, migraines, skin problems and anxiety, but they never diag-



RACHEL KELLY

at first, my arm was weak and went straight down. Her probing revealed that my organs were dehydrated, she said.

A glass of water later and my arm did indeed seem stronger. That was because my body was picking up, she said. But I was not sure that it was not just because I had subconsciously pushed harder the second time round, perhaps to please her that the theory was working.

Part of the treatment involves identifying food sensitivities which can be

nose or treat diseases.

I held up my outstretched arm and resisted gentle pressure from Ms Gothard while she prodded my chest, stomach and throat with her other hand. "Breathe out as you push against me," she instructed.

When she pushed me, my arm was weak and went straight down. Her probing revealed that my organs were dehydrated, she said.

A glass of water later and my arm did indeed seem stronger. That was because my body was picking up, she said. But I was not sure that it was not just because I had subconsciously pushed harder the second time round, perhaps to please her that the theory was working.

Part of the treatment involves identifying food sensitivities which can be

weakening an organ. So Ms Gothard placed a variety of suspect foods against my mouth and did the familiar before-and-after arm pushing routine to see the response.

Oh, what a bore! She says I am sensitive to wheat and more particularly pasta. So no more spaghetti carbonara or vongole for that matter. And, curses, butter too.

I had earlier been blood-tested for food intolerances and wheat was not one of them, so I am not altogether convinced. But when I list what I had eaten the day before — wholesome toast for breakfast, a sandwich for lunch, a mince pie for tea and pasta for supper — I take Ms Gothard's point that a few wheat-free days would make sense and to try porridge for breakfast.

Like every beauty editor, she recommended drinking more water. "Not fizzy, as that just fills you up with carbon dioxide. Remember that one cup of coffee means you get rid of double that fluid from the body." I tested well for vitamin C and vitamin A which pumped up my arm power. So she prescribed taking plenty more of them.

Her final diagnosis was that my adrenal system and immune systems were both low, and could be helped by stimulating my lymph glands which would help clear the system of toxins. She suggested rubbing in a circular motion up the inside thigh to release toxic blockages in the glands.

She did so herself on my behalf and golly it hurt. The glands become tenderised as they get blocked up, she said. "Get your husband to do it at home," she added.

One of the virtues of the theory, says Dr John English, a Salisbury GP who uses kinesiology, is that it encourages people to treat themselves. A helpful husband is even more useful. Had mine been a believer, I would have probably got more lymph rubbing done. As it was, I have settled for porridge for breakfast. And yes, I do feel more energetic, and I am not just saying that because I like Ms Gothard.

● Jane Gothard, 0171-724 1149.
● Association of Kinesiologists, 39 Brown Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8ST. Send an SAE with £1 in stamps for an information pack.



Flexing muscles: Jane Gothard working with a patient

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by that
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A fine perform

We're supposed to be going to Burford for the weekend. For a long weekend. A proper Friday to Monday, in fact. I have been planning this excursion for what seems like months, and have succeeded in convincing myself that there are going to be absolutely no problems. All I have to do is put a change of clothes in a bag, assemble my son and his panda and my jewellery and the box containing my love letters (an exasperated friend once observed that I pack for a weekend away as though fleeing from a Mongol Horde). Then I put the lot in the car, and head for the M40. If we leave by ten at the absolute latest on Friday morning we could be there in time for lunch and a stroll around the antique shops, easy. In fact, none of this happens, because I become gripped with the

paralysing separation anxiety that always moves in when I am to be away from my house for more than a few hours. I may be sick of London and longing to wake up to the sound of birdsong and the bracing report of shotgun fire, but there are, I decide, with the irrefutable meta-logic of the hopelessly deranged, many unpleasant and time-consuming tasks that have to be performed before I can even consider double-locking the front door and waving goodbye to Greenwich for four whole days. First I must drive to Sainsbury's and buy rocketfuel and Parma ham and tapenade and focaccia and chocolate meringue and quantities of whisky and claret, in case

these things are not to be had in Burford. (The fact that we are going to stay with my son's godmother, whose opinions on the need to have vast amounts of alcohol and nourishing food available at all times precisely reflect my own, for some reason does nothing to calm my panicky conviction that there is nothing good in the country — or if there is, they will not let you have it.) Then I must return home (having forgotten, naturally, to fill up with petrol at the supermarket) and, cursing volubly ("Mummy,

PERSONAL LIFE

don't say that word." "Thank you so much for reminding me, darling", heave all the shopping out of the boot (with a view to putting most of it back again later) and change the sheets and wash the floors, so as not to return to a grimy house — so depressing. Washing the floors takes forever, because Alexander is keen to help and has to be dissuaded with ever more taxing flights of imaginative fantasy. Look, I say, you are Admiral Lord Nelson and this chair is his ship, HMS Victory, and here is the sea (slosh, slosh

with the mop). And panda can be Captain Hardy, and together you are sailing the Victory to the Battle of Trafalgar and no, darling, no don't get off the chair because you're the Admiral and if you do then, er, Boney will get you and so you won't win the battle and be the saviour of your nation, now will you? "You don't want to be the saviour of your nation," says Alexander, who still hasn't got personal pronouns sussed. Oh dear, well, um, what would you like to be? "You want to be Mummy, and wash the floor."

Eventually, at 4pm, when I have polished the inside of the piano lid and disinfected the underneath of the loo cistern and gouged all the crumbs out of the oven door hinges with a kebab skewer and in fact Mrs Tittlemouse herself could not find fault with the state of my housekeeping, we make a move. I consider calling Catriona to tell her we might be a shade late, but decide it sounds mad to say that I couldn't leave home without doing the dusting and laying in a bootload of provisions in case her larder should be bare. Alexander has by now caught the general tone of *lacrime rerum*. "Goodbye, house," he says as we pull away from the kerb, in the

mournful accents of the Israelites leaving for Babylon. In fact, of course, we aren't going anywhere much. There is Friday afternoon gridlock all over London. Snailing past Park Royal tube station, I buy an *Evening Standard* from a bloke at the roadside to remind Catriona of the vibrant London life she is doubtless missing already, having been in the Cotswolds for 24 hours. But the paper has taken a curious turn for the rustic. Features pages are given over to articles on hunting and shooting. Surrounded by the metallic grind of a thousand cars proceeding westwards in first gear, the hallooing of our enraged fellow motorists ringing invigoratingly in our ears, we make good our escape from the city.

JANE SHILLING

Tyrannised by that flickering screen

Some parents ban TV; others allow their children to gawp endlessly. Judy Goodkin sits on the fence

At eight o'clock every Thursday evening, I sit down with my nine and ten-year-old daughters to watch the latest instalment of *Animal Hospital*, a clean and jolly programme presented by the clean and jolly Rolf Harris. I promote *Animal Hospital* (and other wholesome programmes) because it is safe: I know Rolf will never take his clothes off, behave violently or form any dubious relationships. But I encourage it even more because it allows me to demonstrate to my children that while our viewing may be regulated, TV reception poor and the attic where we sit cold and draughty, we too are members of the television-watching population. In my heart I know our membership hangs by a rapidly fraying thread and that my daughters would change their address tomorrow if only they could go and live in the Matins household. There, three of the five colour televisions are permanently switched on, each with the volume turned full up. Nine-year-old Gideon cites *London's Burning* as his favourite programme while his sister Simone, at only six, freely watches the programme my daughters may only share in vicariously: *Neighbours*. Michael and Linda Matlin, who both work in sales, live in a neat close of modern houses in north Manchester with their two children, five television sets and a satellite dish. It is difficult to say when the family's daily viewing begins and ends as it is not unusual for them to go to bed with the television on, fall asleep and find the breakfast shows ready to greet them first thing the next morning. The children eat TV-breakfasts and TV-suppers, switching on the Sky

cartoon network as soon as they come home from school. Often a video is the last image their eyes will see before falling asleep at night. "I suppose we should read them a bedtime story but we are just worn out parents who need a rest," says Michael. What began as background noise "the way people used to regard radio" has become a vital prop to the Matlins' family life and there is no discernible effort to limit the number of hours their children watch. "TV makes life easier for us. We come in tired in the evenings and I want a quiet life. I don't want to fight with them. As far as we were concerned they can use their leisure time as they wish. That's not to say they can watch filthy programmes at any hour of the night, but at the end of a hard day neither of us is going to start making biscuits with them or *Blue Peter* models." The children seem contented, the parents relaxed. There is no banning, no bargaining nor any of the simmering resentment which my children direct at me. Linda would like Gideon to read more and while she admits it is not always easy to wrench him away from the screen to do his homework, as long as he is sociable and popular she feels vindicated. Television is just as central to the Cullerier family of north London: in their home all external broadcasts are banned. Jacques, a retired doctor, and his wife Estelle decided to raise their only child, Sarah (now ten) in a television-free environment. Their impulse seemed flawless, in theory. "Without wishing to sound too philosophical, at the end of your life you hope to have achieved a balance between useful hours and wasted



Switched on: Simone Matlin, six, and her brother Gideon, nine, have a choice of five television sets to watch; it is not unusual for them to go to bed and fall asleep with the TV on

hours. On which side of the scale would you put television?" asks Jacques. "What is raising a child if not educating her to choose what is valuable and discard what is not?" In practice, once Sarah hit seven she began to feel painfully different. "TV is a big issue at school, the soaps especially," explains Estelle. "We did not want her to be without any cultural reference points. So to make her life easier we bought a TV, removed the receiver and use the hollow monitor to screen musical comedies and nature videos at appropriate times." While Sarah still grumbles

occasionally, on good days the compromise seems to work. In return for the next-best-thing to real TV, Sarah must accept that her parents are her programmers. "She is free to choose what she likes within the range we offer. Our choice may be limited but at least it is our own choice and no one else's." Jacques insists that Sarah is more creative, more discriminating and has a greater range of inner resources to draw on than her television-watching peers. In the hours they have reclaimed for her, Sarah reads, studies ballet, practises the piano and eats her meals at the table with her parents

where they make a point of engaging her in conversation. But no home can be hermetically sealed. "Rubbish will find its way in," shrugs Estelle. Sarah has carte blanche when it comes to radio and has found her way unerringly to the Spice Girls. The Matlins and the Culleriers are poles apart yet oddly similar: both have nailed their colours to the mast and everyone knows where they stand. Although I am convinced most programmes are worthless or worse and that it makes a poor babysitter, television remains part of the common currency connecting us with our fellow man and I

find I cannot turn my back on it completely. So I sit teetering on the fence while my daughters never see enough of the "right" programmes to keep up with their friends. Instead, they watch and feel deprived, the worst of both worlds. While I continue to tie myself in knots, Gideon and Simone have seen most of the adult world laid bare before them and appear to take it in their stride. According to their mother, "they cotton on pretty quickly about which characters belong together and it's wrong to go off with someone else". Even so, there is one programme they will never watch: "The one where dogs with halitosis are taken to see the vet. What kind of nutters watch *Animal Hospital*?"

Ruth Gledhill enjoys a taste of tradition at a Highland refuge in the heart of Knightsbridge

A fine performance of Scottish pomp



THE CHURCH was Scottish, the people around us were nearly all Scottish, the service was Scottish, and the sermon was preached by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Normally a drive of several hundred miles would be needed for such an event, yet this rare treat was to be had in the heart of Knightsbridge. The Moderator, the Right Rev John McIndoe, was making the annual St Andrews visit to London, and during his tour would meet the Prime Minister, the Lord Mayor, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the president of the Methodist conference, as well as visit London's centre for homeless Scots. Although profoundly Scottish himself, his two-week visit, interrupted only by an overnight trip to St Giles, Edinburgh, to commemorate the return of the Stone of Scone to Scotland, was also a return home because his permanent job is minister of St Columba's, the London flagship of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, or Kirk, which is Scotland's national church. He will be moderator for a year only, before returning to London to continue his ministry. We arrived as the Moderator, wearing formal 18th century court dress similar to that worn by a male speaker of the House of Commons but with lace at the collar and cuffs, was delivering an address to 70



The Right Rev John McIndoe

children before they left the service for Sunday school. He spoke about the meaning of uniformity. "Whatever person we are, whatever jobs we do, the one thing which unites us is that we are all made in the image of God." The church stands tall and white like an icy refuge from the Scottish Highlands, bringing austerity to the luxurious surroundings of Knightsbridge. The church, which bears the symbol of the Burning Bush, the emblem of the Church of Scotland, is

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dedicated to St Columba, the Irish patron of poets who founded monasteries and churches in Ireland and Scotland, most famously on Iona. Columba was said to have had "the face of an angel" and, in one of many miracles, succeeded in banishing the monster from the river Ness into the loch. With a congregation of between 300 and 400 each week, the church serves the Scottish population of the South East in more ways than through worship. During the week,

the church is alive with dance music, with the Highland Club and the Clans, the Chelsea Reel Club and the church's own country dancing club meets there regularly, alongside Alcoholics Anonymous and other groups. The church celebrated its 40th anniversary last year, and the organ's 40th birthday was celebrated on Thursday with a recital. At our service we sang wonderfully traditional hymns, and heard a stunning anthem by Mendelssohn. The Rev Calum MacLeod, assistant minister, requested God's blessing on both nation and monarch. "We pray for the unpopular, the unconventional, for those who carry secret yearnings," he said. The Moderator preached from the pulpit, behind which stands the chapel of the London Scottish Regiment. He described living in the Moderator's flat in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, a property open to the public and owned by the National Trust. "I was going through the front door one day [in my Moderator's outfit] as a lady was coming out. She had done a tour of the house. Perhaps her mind was running on antiquities. She put her hand on my arm and said: 'I'm sorry to be missing your performance.'" We, however, enjoyed his performance immensely, and thoroughly recommend St Columba's for all in the South East who want a taste of Scotland. St Columba's Church of Scotland, Port St. London SW1X 0BD (071-584 2321)

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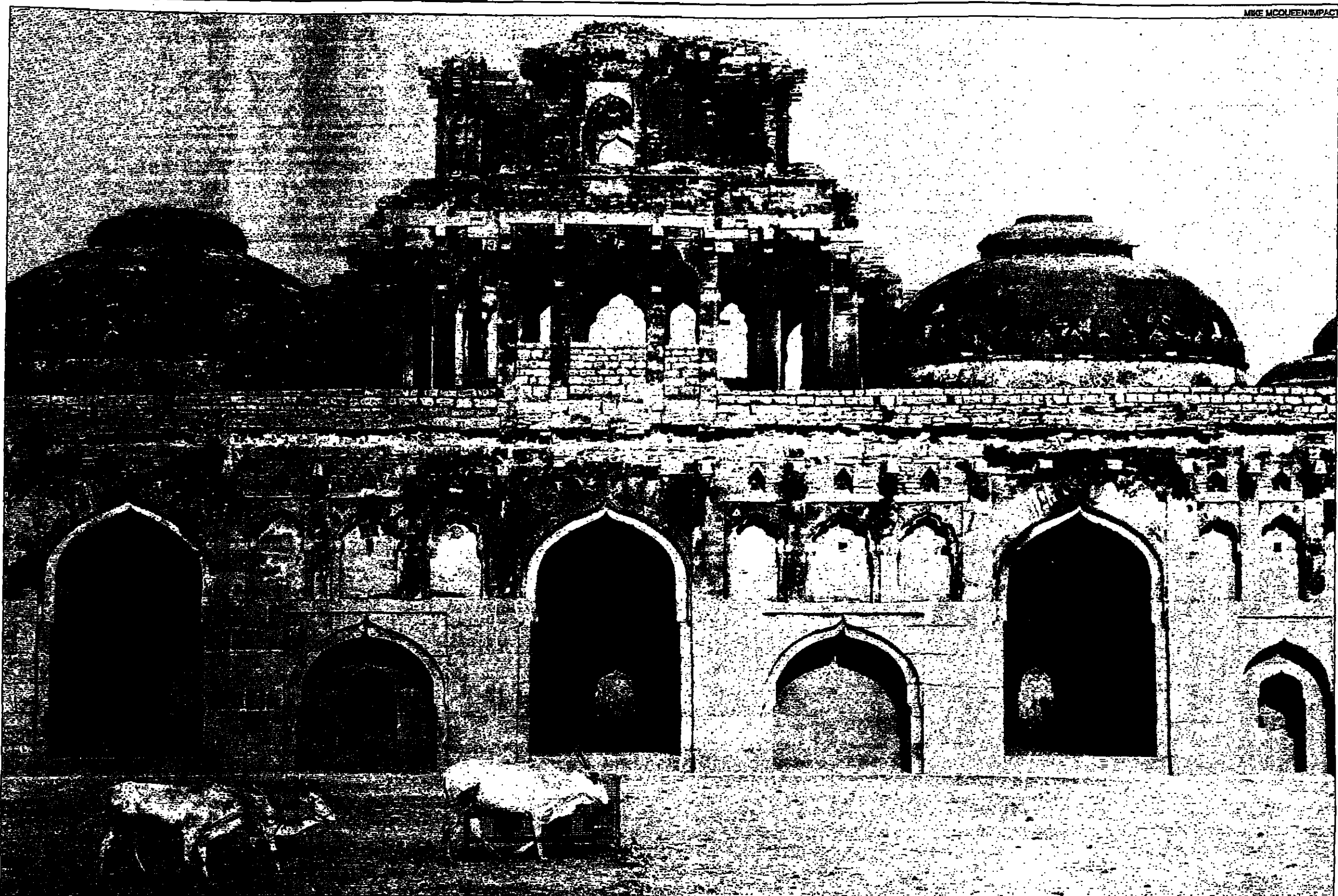
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The elephant stables at Hampi, 200 miles north of Bangalore. This vast ghost city has been deserted since the 16th century. It once rivalled Rome and is now one of the world's great neglected tourist treasures

Mr Gopal is looking particularly chipper. "I have arranged for you to see His Highness the Maharajah," he beams. "We will proceed at 12.15." To fill the intervening two hours, he takes us on a tour of the palaces of Mysore. They lurk on every corner, seemingly dozens of them with their pillars and domes and drive-ways big enough to stage a Durbar. Even the balconies have balconies. We pass an especially sumptuous pile. A summer palace? A winter palace? "No, no," Mr Gopal says. "The old stores."

Mr H.D. Gopal is a wiry man in his late sixties. He knows Mysore better than anyone. For seven years he was Master of Ceremonies for the last ruling Maharajah, who ceded power to the Indian Government after Independence. Mr Gopal inherited his post — organising state functions — from his father, who had inherited it from his father. It carried huge responsibility.

The Maharajahs were — after the Nizams of Hyderabad — India's richest rulers. They wore coats made entirely of pearls, sat on solid gold thrones and commissioned jade chess sets studded with rubies. "Oh yes, yes, yes," Mr G says. "Very great wealth."

He leads us round Mysore's suburbs. The yellow-painted bungalows of the long-gone British are settling into discreet decay as Income Tax offices. Tongas trot past, straight out of Kipling, and

Mr Gopal sighs nostalgically for the old days, when the Viceroy came to banquets, when the royal guards were given allowances to keep their bushy moustaches in trim, when the household staff of 15,000 included 1,200 in the kitchen ("But slowly we retrenched").

He checks his watch. Eleven o'clock. "We will proceed to City Palace," he says. "Come." Mysore's City Palace is preposterously plush, with its solid silver and ivory doors, its Venetian glass and its turquoise and gold pillars — once gold leaf, now, after retrenchment, gold paint. It leaps fearlessly beyond good taste, like Brighton Pavilion redesigned by Walt Disney. On Sunday nights, it is lit by 50,000 fairy lights. Sleeping Beauty could slumber happily here.

Crowds of Indian tourists jostle around. They point to the murals of 1930s processions, where the State Elephant is just passing the Liptons Tea sign and the Rolls-Royces of visiting Rajahs clutter the church car park. "The fellows from the villages used to come in their bullock carts to see," Mr Gopal says. "And look..." He points to the centre of a mural, to a studious man with waxed moustache and scarlet turban. "This is my father. When I see these scenes I feel like

The high and the mighty

Stephen McClarence admires palaces in Mysore, takes tea with the Maharajah and remembers not to tease the elephants

cards, signs a letter held out by a silent flunkie and orders tea. It arrives in silver goblets. His palace grounds are now maintained by the state and His Highness is not always best pleased. "I have just telephoned them to complain," he says. "The drives are full of elephant dung!"

He reckons he can achieve as much as an MP as he might have done as a ruling Maharajah — though, yes, he could "still cause upheaval" if he wanted. "But what do you think of Prince Charles?" Is the power of the British royal family waning?

The Maharajahs have had to move with the times. Many of their palaces have been converted into hotels — notably the dazzling white Lalitha Mahal Palace, echoing and expensive on its own hill high above Mysore. As a statement of wealth, it could hardly be bettered. American tourists with bulging brown bags stay in rooms once used by the Viceroy. It's the world of modern tourism which the Maha-

rajah's sister, Princess Meenakshi Devi, has eagerly embraced. She runs her own travel company, Regal Voyages, from Bangalore, a two-hour train journey from Mysore through the lush coconut palm landscape of Karnataka state.

Bangalore is India's boom city. Its computer industry and consumerism make it an icon of an expanding nation. In a street of shopping malls, pizza parlours and freezer warehouses, the toy shops sell Barbie in India dolls (brunettes in Rajasthani bridal dress) and CD stores smooch out Julio Iglesias. At a Louis Philippe outlet, a young assistant wraps a pair of socks costing half a labourer's weekly wage. "So much materialistic hunk-funk!" he sniffs. "By the way, what do you think of Salman Rushdie?"

A pub culture thrives here, with 200 startlingly un-Indian theme pubs. The Red Lion, with its *Hay Wain* prints, aims to recreate "the feeling of a typical English pub — Oh! to be in England drinking English beer". City slickers perch on bar stools, their packets of

Marlboro in front of them. The Princess organises tours that give glimpses of the city's more traditional life and customs. Half way through a day of potters, sari factories, hand-painters and Indian classical music, we are ushered into a dance teacher's front room, where a young woman is preparing to show us classical dance. "This is Miss Karnataka," says the teacher proudly. "Winner of beauty pageants." Is she entering Miss India? "I lack the height," says the young woman with a downcast glance. "Only five feet six inches."

Gradually we fill in the gaps on the Maharajah's family tree. In the Bandipur National Park, south of Mysore, his other sister, Princess Visha Lakshi, runs Tusker Trails, a wildlife resort above plantations of sunflowers and sugar cane.

Mr Gopal is in his element as he points out the old hunting lodges and the spot where the late Maharajah shot the elephant whose trunk made the umbrella stand. Priorities are different now. "Teasing of animals prohibited," says a sign as we set off on a dusk safari. We take care not to tease the bison or the elephants. Panther tracks pad through the dust. Tigers? Maybe tomorrow.

And so to the final branch of the

family tree — to the Maharajah's brother-in-law, Gajendra Singh Auwa, who illustrates books on India's heritage and enthuses about Hampi. He is right to do so. This ghost city, two hundred miles north of Bangalore, once rivalled Rome and is now one of the world's great neglected tourist treasures. Its ruins — pleasure palaces, bath houses, elephant stables — cover 15 square miles and have been deserted since the 16th century.

In Egypt, any one of its temples would be the excuse for a Hilton or a Sheraton. But we spend a day with the site — strewn around a surreal landscape of vast ochre boulders — almost to ourselves. A rare chance to pretend to be a pioneer Victorian traveller.

Women sit cross-legged under banyan trees. A monkey steals bananas from a roadside stall. There's a distant thwack of laundry being slapped on a stone and we stroll along the river bank to the fantastically ornate Vittala Temple. Inside, the silence is almost complete. It is the perfect vision of timeless romantic India — herds of goats, swooping green parakeets, bullocks with tinkling bells. The sun sets a dusty orange and across the ruins drifts the quintessential sound of modern India. "The run-rare has been bang on target this innings and India are 31 for 4."

The transistor radio plays on and we proceed with Mr Gopal.

● The author toured Karnataka as a guest of Regal Voyages (Bangalore)

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FACT FILE

- The author flew to Delhi with Air India on a return flight from Manchester booked through Trailfinders (0171-938 3366). Manchester/India £384 return; London/India £484.
- Bangalore is well connected by air and rail with Delhi. Bangalore/Delhi flights on local airlines cost from £232 return and can be booked in this country through Trailfinders.
- Regal Voyages of Bangalore (0091 80 334 4066) organises tailor-made tours of southern India. A four-night chauffeur-driven tour of Mysore, Bangalore and Hampi costs from £235.
- Tusker Trails of Bandipur (0091 80 334 2362) offer jeep safaris from £40 per day.
- Gateway Hotel, Bangalore, has double rooms at £80 a day (including taxes). Hotel Siddhartha, Mysore has double rooms at £8.
- British passport holders need a visa for India, from the Indian High Commission (0171-863 9484). The India Tourist Office is at 7, Cork Street, London, W1X 1PB (0171-437 3677).

INDIA GUIDE

AS I AM about to spend four months in eastern India, I have been studying most of the available guides. Joe Roberts writes:

Louise Nicholson's *India Companion* (headline, £14.99) an updated version of *India in Luxury*, is the best by a long chalk. She leads you off the beaten track in search of the aesthetic delights she clearly relishes. In Calcutta she proposes a visit to the Kumartuli district where potters fashion sacred images of Hindu deities; in Lucknow she directs you to manufacturers of chikan kari embroidery, star shops and the fighting-cocks of the Aminabad Bazaar; in Delhi she recommends the medieval Nizamuddin area.

This book (perhaps in conjunction with the *Penguin Guide to the Mountains of India*) is for the sophisticated tourist. Miss Nicholson shares her considerable knowledge of Indian history and culture like an enthusiastic friend. It is a

Sarah Anderson of the Travel Bookshop (0171-220 5260) recommends: *Penguin Guide to the Mountains of India*: Buddhist, Hindu, Jain by George Mitchell (Penguin, £8.99, ISBN 0 140 08144 9). *Om, An Indian Pilgrimage* by Geoffrey Moorhouse (Sceptre, £5.99, ISBN 0 340 60191 4). *Cadogan Guide to Southern India* by Frank Kury and Robert Isaacson (Cadogan, £14.99, ISBN 1 850 11070 3).

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Aspects of Jamaica: A five-bedroom pad at the Half Moon Club or history and churches nestling inland

A place for fussy lotus eaters

By the time he actually met James Bond, the ornithologist whose name he had stolen from the spine of the classic *Birds of the West Indies*, Ian Fleming had been living in Jamaica for nearly 20 years. "A couple of weeks ago," he wrote in 1964, "they arrived here out of the blue, the real James Bond and Mrs Bond, and couldn't have been nicer about my theft of the family name. It helped at Customs, they said."

Fleming wrote all the Bond books in Jamaica, at Goldeneye, his villa near the north-eastern banana port of Oracabessa, now owned by Chris Blackwell of Island Records. Soon after the war, while still settling in, he offered some advice to the potential visitor from Britain: "I can assure you that sun and calm blue seas and brassy heat can be more wearying and exasperating than the grey but ever-changing porridge in which you live."

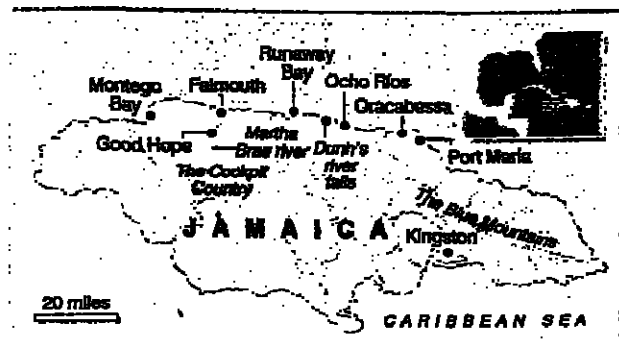
Fifty years of tourism later, while seeing what Fleming meant, I must beg to disagree. All that sun, sea and heat might get a mite monotonous all year round but for a brief escape from Britain's sour old climate, at whatever time of year, they strike me as pretty close to perfection.

Understandably, perhaps, many Caribbean-lovers never leave the expensive luxury of their hotels. But if you're one of those travellers who can't relax, or just likes to explore, it's time you sought out this large island: 140 miles long by 50 wide, unusually mountainous for the region, with everything from luxuriant tropical vegetation to its own distinctive culture and lively day-and-night action.

For all but the most resolute beach-potato, a leisurely way to explore Jamaica's interior is by river-raft along the Martha Brae, inland near Falmouth and "Cockpit Country", a naturalist's heaven, with almost 1,000 species of flowering plants unique to the island. Other scenic beauties include the Dunn's River Falls, whose fresh-and-salt water mix you can sample as they merge with the sea by Ocho Rios.

Unusually for the Caribbean, Jamaica also offers a diversity of historical sites, from the Bob Marley Birthplace Museum in Kingston — a must for students of reggae and Rastafarianism — to the stately old plantation houses along the north coast towards Montego Bay: Greenwood or Rose Hall.

They had their day 150 years ago. Jamaica's more recent reputation for danger draws a weary sigh from all you meet, indigenous or otherwise. On Air Jamaica I found myself sitting next to the High Commissioner, the sublimely named Derrick Heaven, who



FACT FILE

■ Booked through Elegant Resorts (01244 997999), a scheduled flight to Montego Bay from Heathrow on Air Jamaica (0181 570 7999), or Gatwick on British Airways (0345 222111), car transfers and one week's accommodation (room only), would cost from £990 at Half Moon Club (001 809 953 2615) or from £995 at Round Hill (056 7050). ■ At Half Moon Club, a five-bedroom villa with private pool and staff costs from £4,965 per week (not including flights). ■ Elegant Resorts' Platinum Plan offers full board, drinks, and all sports for a supplementary £36 per person per day. ■ Reading: *The Travel Bookshop* (0171 229 5260) recommends *A High Wind in Jamaica* by Richard Hughes (Harvill, £7.99, ISBN 0 002 71312 9), *Middle Passage* by V.S. Naipaul (Penguin, £6.99, ISBN 0 140 02820 6). ■ Jamaica Tourist Board 0800 445533.

my sons and I were welcomed with our surname spelt out in flowers, and looked after almost too attentively. Our five-bedroom pad came with delicious home cooking (ackee and salt fish for breakfast, pepperpot soup and jerk chicken for dinner), well-stocked bar, TV and video throughout, two golf buggies to roam the 400-acre estate, not to mention private pool and Maud Priest, the reggae star, next door in a mansion previously occupied by Whitney Houston.

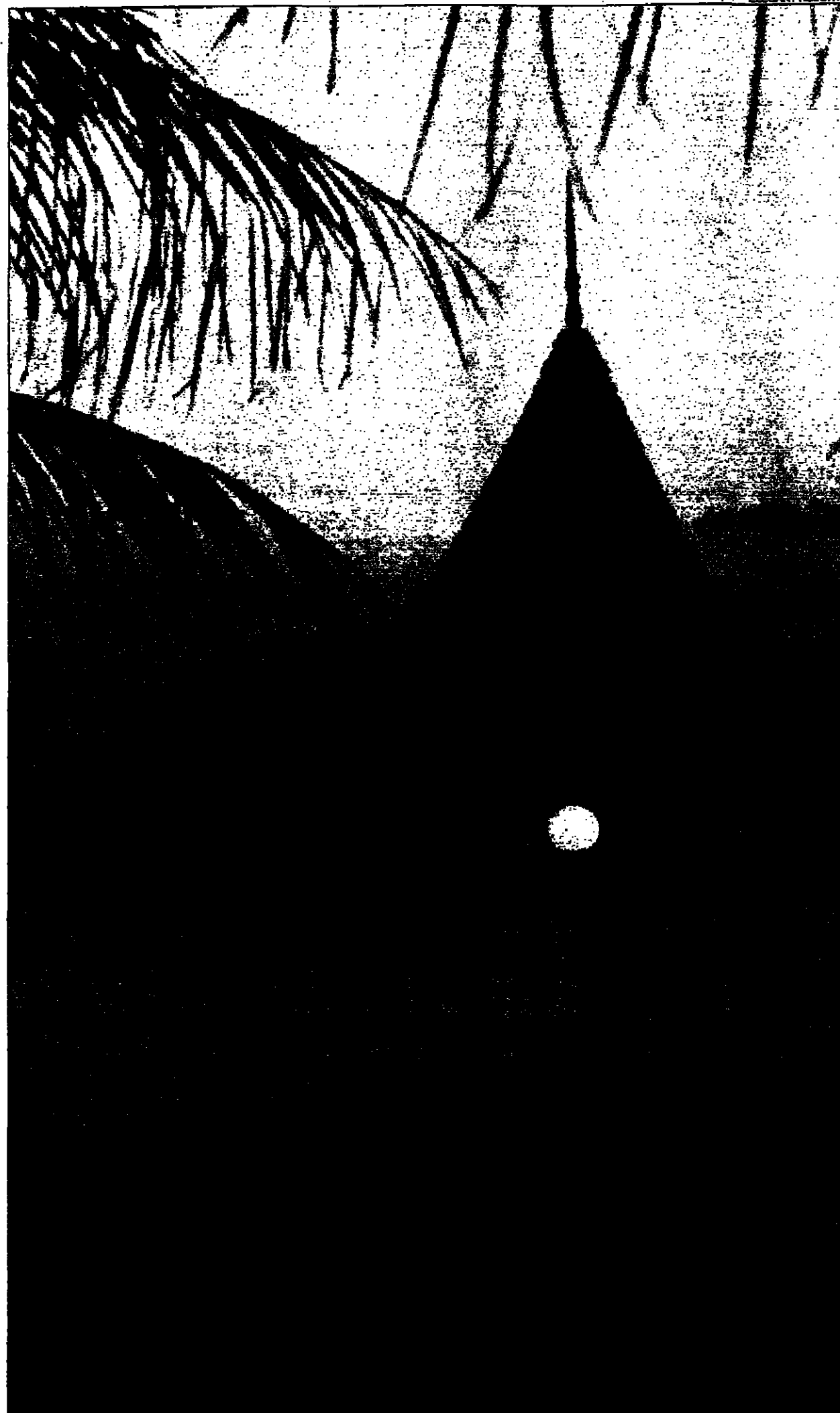
Golf, tennis, water sports, fitness centre, even riding and croquet, along half a mile of bath-warm seawater: the Half Moon is as sleek as these places get — Las Vegas-on-Sea, for my taste, compared with the tranquil charms of its equally well-equipped but more elegantly refined neighbour, Round Hill.

Noel Coward's piano in the seafront bar symbolises the calm of Round Hill, whose philosophy of unobtrusive, personal-touch luxury remains unchanged since it pioneered this way of life in the 1950s. Again there is an array of handsome private villas — all with their own staff, many with pools — as well as rooms in the main house.

Round Hill is where JFK was fêted by the CBS-TV boss Bill Paley, in the villa where these days Paul McCartney takes his family for Christmas. For the lotus eater who is fussy about his lotus, this is paradise. Half Moon and Round Hill are just 20 minutes east and west, respectively, of the airport at Montego Bay, and ten hours from Heathrow on Air Jamaica — absent from British airspace for the past 12 years but now back in style, rejuvenated by "Butch" Stewart, the entrepreneur behind the Sandals resorts.

Having made my first visit by Air Jamaica 20 years ago, I am delighted to report that it has returned complete with its unique fashion parade, whereby the stewardess who has just been serving you dinner suddenly wanders in by sultry beachwear. Add an aerobics session, conducted over the public address system to ward off jet-lag, and they help start (and end) your Jamaican vacation in suitably serene style.

ANTHONY HODEN
The author was a guest of Elegant Resorts and Air Jamaica



The beach bar at the Half Moon Club in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where visitors are outnumbered by hotel staff

See you at the 19th hole

The late-night pyjama and toga parties I missed through legitimate tiredness. Montego Bay is nine and a half hours out of Gatwick, and 90 minutes by mini-bus westwards to Runaway Bay, where the Jamaican SuperClubs group is host at its 400-bedroom Breezes resort.

The beach-terrace mini-Olympics? More, I think, for lady arm-wrestlers and tug-of-war specialists from New Jersey and Phoenix. The trapeze? Well, the back's a bit troublesome. But of 30 items chalked on to the day's beach schedule there was plenty left.

Golf? That was at a par-72, 6,602-yard championship course ten minutes' stroll from the resort's luxuriant tropical gardens and tennis courts. It's the one place to take a few dollars to pay caddies who will instruct a scratch player on his swing or a novice on ways to hold a putter.

Scuba diving? No problem and no extra cost. Preliminary instruction was in the pool followed by a 20ft plunge off a boat to places where tropical fish abound. Water skiing was much the same. This was the



Golfers like Jamaica

May to September hurricane season but tropical storm Caesar, 250 miles south, had moved on, the sea had calmed, and beginners were allowed half-a-dozen attempts at the hard bit — rising up as the tow-rope tightens.

Probably the last thing you need at a super all-inclusive resort, as founder John Issa terms his eight Caribbean properties, is your wallet. In the beach bar, restaurant or disco, daquiri, rum punch or wine is free. "They thought we'd be drunk dry," Mr Issa says. "That's not the psychology. In the home you have a drink when you feel like it. The same here."

If you fancy a shopping trip outside the 40-acre complex, an off-duty waiter will act as escort for about £15. If nothing else, he will understand Jamaican patois, an unwritten glossary of English, Spanish, French and African. But who needs shops? Buffet food in the shingle-tiled beach restaurant is ample and well-cooked by an all-Jamaican staff. Local produce does not stop at jerk pork and chicken. (Jerk? A spicy sauce and nought to do with personal habits or styles.) The third or lazy will sun-soak under shady palms on a quarter-mile strand, tempted only by a dip in the ocean or kidney-shaped pool, maybe eyeing the colourful scene over an iced cocktail. Laughter! What's happening over there? An arm wrestle with Jodie? Well, that's my arm well and truly twisted. Running away at Runaway Bay was for Spaniards 300 years ago.

JOHN SAMUEL
The author was a guest of British Airways Holidays (01293 723130) and SuperClubs Breezes resort at Runaway Bay, Jamaica. The all-in price for a week's stay from July to September is £1,392 per person.

The hills where slaves took refuge in religion

There is nothing wrong with Jamaica beaches, but what makes this very fertile island so rewardingly different from elsewhere in the Caribbean is its hilly interior. Here are acres of exotic fruits (every one you have ever heard of, and more besides), churches of every known denomination, strange little communities, and old plantation houses which, unlike in Antigua, have not all been destroyed.

Rose Hall, close to Montego Bay, may be the best-known of the "great houses" — because

its mistress, Annie Palmer, used to sleep with her slaves before killing them — but Greenwood, in the hills above the north coast, has the most fascinating history and contents. Owned by the Barretts (of Wimpole Street) since the mid-17th century, the estate had 84,000 acres and 2,000 slaves. In the 1780s Edward Barrett's income was said to exceed £60,000 per year.

Greenwood boasts that no other house in the Caribbean has a better collection of furniture and artefacts. My eye was caught by inlaid

chests, a court jester's chair, a cedar bath tub and a steel man-trap to catch escaping slaves. At the top of the house a 70ft-long veranda has a panoramic, almost 180-degree view of the Caribbean Sea. In the garden below, John Crows (Jamaica's ubiquitous black vulture) swoop over the casuarina trees.

Good Hope, overlooking the mountainous Cockpit country, is a Georgian house converted to a ten-bedroom hotel. It has the look of a colonial governor's residence. Other great houses, such as Belvedere and Colbeck Castle, are in ruins, having been burnt when slavery ended in the 1830s. They remind one of Irish houses destroyed at the time of independence, though their estates may still be flourishing today. At Belvedere, one of the first sugar cane plantations, the present owner breeds Red Poll cattle and has 50,000 trees producing citrus fruit, bananas and coconuts.

If the institution of slavery was responsible for Jamaica's great houses, it is also directly

associated with the proliferation of churches on the island. In the 18th century the Church of England in Jamaica represented the ruling class: none of its Christian teachings were designed to give succour to the slave population. So it was left to Methodists, Baptists and Moravians to make common religious, and more revolutionary, cause with the slaves.

Nonconformist churches went on growing: Pentecostals, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Evangelicals and Revivalists all had their followers. If Protestant Christianity has a fissionary tendency, it is nowhere more evident than in Jamaica. No one seems to know quite how many church buildings there are today in Jamaica — more than 900, I was told, belonging to 200 denominations.



Selling exotic fruit from Jamaica's fertile, hilly interior

told me he was 95 per cent German. Apart from the church, the German community at Seaford supports a Catholic Sacred Heart Mission, a clinic and a vocational training centre, which are partly funded by the German government.

Much less accessible are the descendants of the Maroons, who were given a form of autonomy over the wild and remote Cockpit country, where they went to live in the last century. This densely wooded area south of Falmouth, rising to 2,500ft, has no roads and is best left to its few local inhabitants.

Wherever you go in Jamaica, you will hear English spoken in Jamaican dialect. Expressions such as "Hurry-come-up" are immediately comprehensible when you learn that it means *nouveau riche*. The weekly market in Falmouth is known as the Bend-Down Market because all the clothes and other goods for sale are laid out on the ground. The only drawback to

exploring inland Jamaica is the condition of the roads. Many have pot-holes, made worse by rain, and signposts on country roads are few and far between. "All you have to do in Jamaica is ask the way." I was told reassuringly by a shopkeeper. When I said that the last time I had done so, I had been sent in the wrong direction, it was endearingly predictable that he should roar with laughter.

When once stuck behind a lorry on a mountain road, I noticed on one of its mud flaps the words: "High Hopes — the sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night." But if the roads get you down, there is, or was, a railway line from Montego Bay through the hills to Kingston. The service was closed in 1985, but it is due to reopen soon. The only problem is that, in Jamaican, "soon" is not a word that is capable of any definition.

SIMON COURTAULD
The author was a guest of Air Jamaica and Caribours

FACT FILE

■ Air Jamaica (0181 570 7999) operates four flights a week from Heathrow to Montego Bay and Kingston. Prices start from £664 return. ■ Caribours (0171 581 3517) offers one week at Jamaica Inn, Ocho Rios, from £1,109, including scheduled flights with Air Jamaica; a three-week stay for the price of two between May 1 and October 31. It also offers other Jamaica hotels and breaks at Good Hope. ■ The shape of the island has been compared to a turtle. It is 140 miles long and 50 miles between north and south coasts. Anywhere inland is less than an hour's drive from the sea. Jamaica is divided into three counties — Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey.

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Indian Ocean: A Robinson Crusoe escape to the Maldives; plus the spicy atmosphere of Zanzibar

A golden chain with no catch

In the mornings I am woken by the low laughter of women in bright saris sweeping the white carpet of sand with palm fronds outside my terrace. I transfer from my thatched cottage to my hammock slung between two palm trees at the edge of the lagoon, to ponder, not very seriously, how to spend the day ahead on Ari Beach in the Maldives.

The choices are delightfully limited. Little more than a sandy spit a mile long by 300 yards wide, Ari Beach is one of the remotest Maldives — a "no news, no shoes" island. It is certainly the nearest thing I have discovered yet to the Robinson Crusoe package promised by an increasing number of holiday brochures featuring this island chain.

Stretching across 500 miles of Indian Ocean, about 400 miles off the coast of Sri Lanka, nobody seems sure how many Maldivian islands there are. Marco Polo claimed as many as 12,700, though the Government stipulates 1,190, of which 98 are officially designated tourist islands. The locals live separately on their own islands where the mainstay is fishing, and which tourists can visit only with a permit.

The Portuguese, British and Dutch dabbled with colonial rule, but south-east Asia's smallest nation, 99.66 per cent of whose territory consists of sea, gained full independence as an Islamic republic in 1965 — and is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first tourist arrivals with a Visit the Maldives Year promotion next year.

The holiday image of the Maldives does not appeal to everyone. Too many "paradise" islands turn out to be boring to all but the most dedicated beach potato. Emphasis on "diving facilities" conjures up visions of smelly rubber suits and over-chlorinated swimming pools; while warnings that fines will be imposed on holidaymakers bringing in duty-free alcohol send out shock waves (though alcoholic drinks are widely and legally available in tourist hotels).

A new airport terminal, however, created a welcoming impression on our arrival. The Maldivian airport is on its own island, Hulul, just opposite the capital, Male, and hotel transfers are by helicopter, speed boat or dhoni, a wooden fishing boat.

With the huge gold-coloured dome of the Islamic Centre dominating a skyline of warehouses and skyscrapers, the capital is not a tourist island, though it is interesting to catch a glimpse of local life.

On the holiday islands, you are usually stuck with just one hotel — no local bars, cafes or even shops though there is always a tiny mosque tucked among the palms for the hotel workers.

It is almost impossible to distinguish one Maldivian island from another. All have coconut palms, haloes of glorious white sand and turquoise lagoons encircled by reefs — plus the considerable advantages of no malarial mosquitoes, no snakes and no violence. The Maldivians are very friendly. The islands have almost no indigenous plant life and no resources.

Although hotels have their own water and electricity-generating plants, all food has to be imported and refrigerated, which means that gastronomy is rarely a highlight, and costs can be high.

Even rubbish disposal is a major problem, and on the flight out we were issued with plastic bags for our own waste to be carried back to Britain.

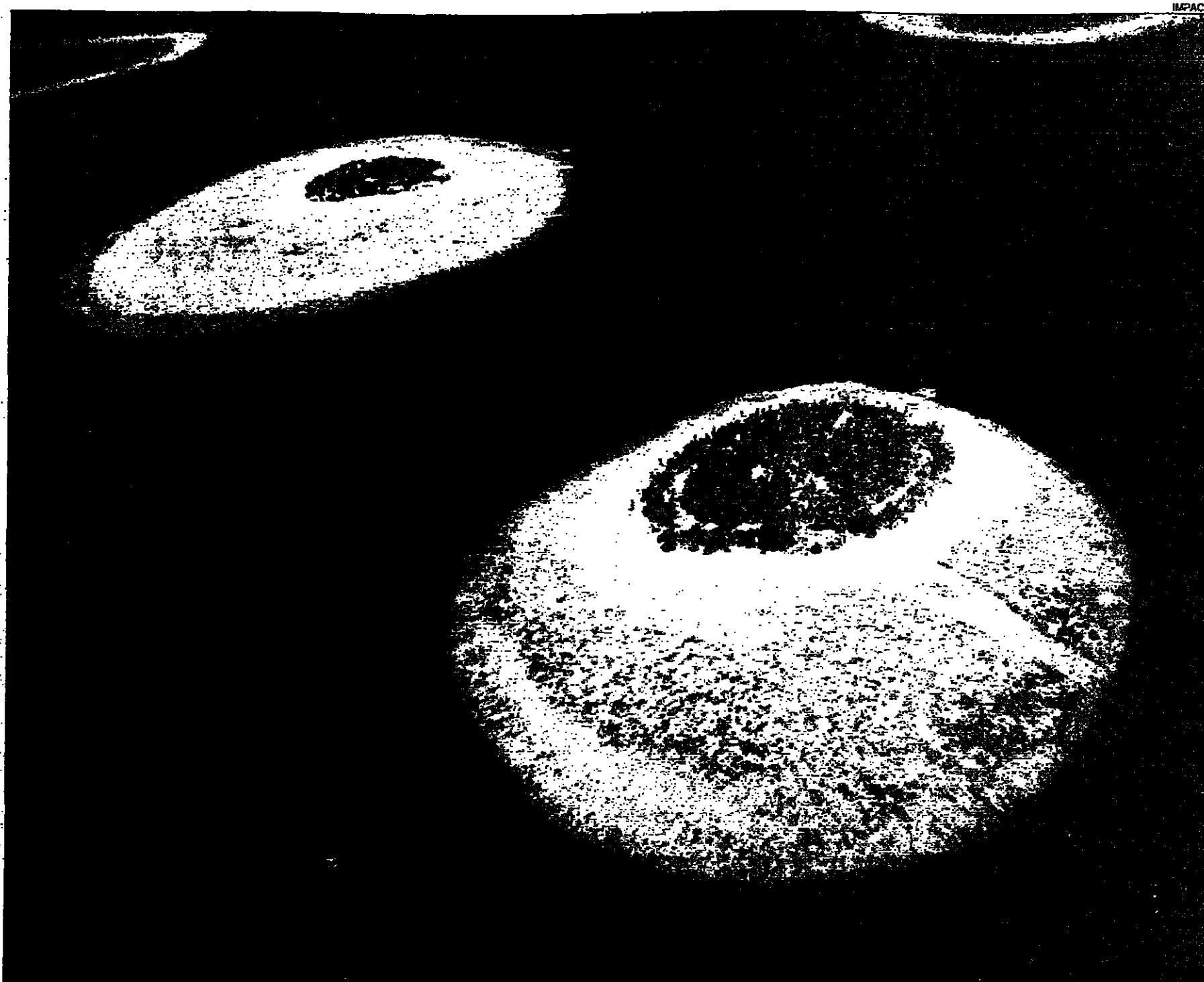
Despite the islands' physical similarities, the style of the hotels varies from sophisticated five-star establishments — usually on the islands nearest to Male — to the more laid-back escapist aunts such as Ari Beach, which can take three hours to reach by boat, or 30 minutes by helicopter.

Potential Crusoes will not find the five-star Kurumba cheap. This was the first resort to be developed, in 1972. The mature gardens, spacious lawns and alleys brimming with frangipani and bougainvillea are manicured to perfection; the air-conditioned bungalows have phones, television and hairdryers.

Lobster and sashimi are among the 50 or so items served at the candlelit beach barbecue each week. The notice-board lists hosts of activities, from tennis and gymnastics at the fitness centre, to saunas, every type of watersport and warnings in five languages that nudity and topless bathing are strictly prohibited.

All the island resorts have excellent, usually European-run, diving schools. I joined an introductory dive on Kurumba, in the lagoon rather than the pool, and wished I had more time to continue.

Kurumathi, the next island I visited, is unusual in having three hotels, one of them all-inclusive with an amazing live-in cocktail. The representatives tell me that they plan activities on the assumption that new guests will try them all on their first day, the second will be hangover day, and by the third



Officially there are 1,190 islands in the Maldives, an Islamic republic and the smallest nation in South-East Asia, stretching across 500 miles of the Indian Ocean

they will be ready for action — a pattern repeated fairly systematically throughout the holiday fortnight.

Back on Ari Beach, it was back to basics — no pool or television, the dining areas are open-sided and simple, though there are tennis courts and diving and sailing lessons. The manager's wife Pauline is from Tonbridge, Kent. She went on holiday to the Maldives five years ago, met her husband, Shavey, a local, and stayed at the Kurumba resort as an escapist hideaway.

The days soon develop their own slow, satisfying rhythm. One evening, I went on a night-fishing excursion and, with a primitive line and hooks and lots of supervision, bagged a couple of red snappers for supper.

Snorkelling on the reef, I plunged into a new multicoloured world where I learned to distinguish oriental sweetwoods and lemon me-

ringue wrasses from sleeper gobies and humbug damselfish, and marvelled at the amazing parrot fish that can change colour and sex, and create whole beaches by nibbling at the coral.

Evening entertainments are limited — a display of local dancing, even crab racing — which I avoided, having become fiercely protective of my own friendly resident molluscs.

Most of the time, I relaxed in my hammock. There was a minimalist view of a few other-stunning palm fronds suspended between translucent sea and sky, and the occasional silhouette of a fishing dhoni drifting across the horizon.

I might not make a habit of holidaying in the Maldives, but I would certainly be prepared to nosh up a few more atolls like Ari Beach.

JILL CRAWSHAW

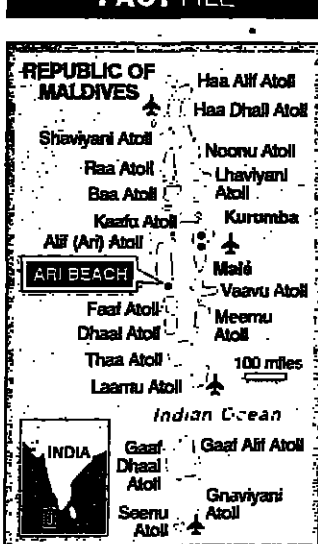
• The author was a guest of Kuoni

■ Kuoni (01306 7405000) offers a week's half-board at Ari Beach from £599 to £797, at Kurumba from £727 to £874, B&B. The Maldives can also be combined with Sri Lanka, India, Singapore and Hong Kong. Three nights in Delhi with five nights in Sri Lanka plus six nights in the Maldives, costs from £1,039 to £1,221.

■ A new Maldivian cruise on the *Atoll Explorer*, carrying 40 passengers, visits several Maldivian islands and costs from £989 full board for a week.

■ Diving schools in hotels follow the Professional Association of Diving Instructors Open Water Course, which includes nine training dives and theory lessons and equipment hire. From £210.

FACT FILE



■ Weather: the Maldives have a year-round season, but the driest months are from December to April, wettest from June to October.

■ Currency: the official currency is the rufiyah, but the US dollar is used in the island resorts.

■ Other operators include Elite (0181-864 4431) and Cosmos (0161-429 7773).

■ Reading: the Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Islands of the Indian Ocean* by H.A.R. Gibb (Dart, £15, ISBN 1 850 77002 6). *Guide to Maldives* by Royston Ellis (Bradt, £11.95, ISBN 1 858 32323 2).

Shy spice girls of the fragrant island

You can smell the spices as you step off the plane — cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg and others too subtle to identify — wafting like an aerial bouquet from the north of the island, where they grow in profusion.

I had last visited Zanzibar 44 years ago, on a day shared from the *SS Kenya*. Then, the Sultan had sailed out in the royal barge to greet us. The last of the Sultans — and all the Sultanas — have gone, toppled in a revolution in 1964. But the palace, the barge and their trappings remain, and many older Zanzibaris still speak of them with respect — as they do of the Dutch, the Germans and the British, all of whom stamped their standards and education systems on the island. Even my minicab driver, Seif ("I drive safely, beep-beep, ha ha"), had sat the Oxford and Cambridge Joint School Certificate examination in 1952 and passed with four credits.

Sadly, since the revolution Zanzibar has become more dilapidated than ever, with much of the lovely white architecture besmirched by a creeping black mould, public transport erratic and the economy on a switchback. But a preservation order, backed by a United Nations grant, has halted demolition of all buildings of architectural merit — and there are hundreds.

Stonemasons are restoring crumbling walls and facades. Carpenters and metalmiths are fashioning replicas of the famous Zanzibar doors — massive rectangles of mahogany or teak, elaborately stud-



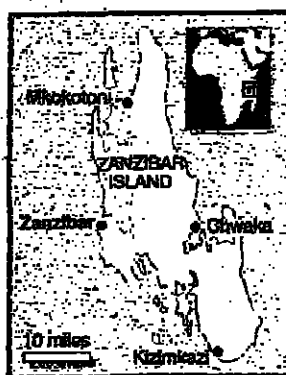
Stalls in Zanzibar town sell produce grown in the north of the island

ZANZIBAR FACT FILE

■ Getting there: Gulf Air (0171-408 1717) flies to Zanzibar from Heathrow from £1,063 return; British Airways (0345 222111) flies to Dar-es-Salaam with connecting flights to Zanzibar (30 min) by Precision Air or Air Tanzania; £999 return. Trailfinders (0171-938 3939) has savings on standard fares (eg. £495 to £567). Specialist operators Somak (0181-423 3000), Cordial Tours (0181-405 0100) or Wild Africa Safaris (0171-259 9908) offer five nights' B&B, including airfare, from £579 to £915 per person, depending on season.

■ Where to stay: the Shangani (00255 54-33688), Mazsons (03694; fax 33695), Dhow Palace, Tembo and Serena Inn in Zanzibar town, or Fisherman's Resort (02028; fax 30556) and Sau Inn, Kidogo and Sun Rise on the coast. Prices range from £8 per person per night (room only) to £42-£68 per person per night (half-board) in the Fisherman's Resort. Central hotels range from £48-£65 (£52-£68 B&B in the Serena Inn).

■ Recommended tour operators are Chemah Tours and Safaris (fax 33385) and Rainbow Tours & Travel (fax 33496).



by, murmuring "Jambo" ("Good day"); women still scurried into dark interiors at the slightest glint of a camera. I walked up Shangani Street to check on the English Club, once a second home to colonials in khaki, diplomats in

cotton suits and naval chaps in white duck. Two miniature cannons still guard the front door; the buffalo head still peers down the staircase but it is white with dust; signs still point to "Committee Room" and "Ladies Powder Room" but the stench stops you in your tracks. The full-sized billiard table is stacked in pieces against a wall and the white pedestal weighing machine — marked in stones and ounces and bearing the sign "Weigh Yourself at the English Club" — is encrusted with verdigris and rust.

The veranda — designed like the deck of a ship, with a view over the Indian Ocean — still has a bar but I had to wake the barman to get a drink. The club is now a hotel.

Zanzibar today enjoys a higher per capita income than the rest of Tanzania, but the economy is linked to the dollar. While I was there the G7 ministers were in session, trying to decide how best to prop up the dollar, and so it was clearly a time for investment to be "frozen".

Everywhere there are half-built houses. Yussef Khan, a private building contractor, told me: "When times are good, people invest in bricks and cement. Then the currency loses its value and they tell me, 'Stop'. Then they tell me, 'We have more money — put the roof on' or whatever."

One area where "stop-go" is not applied is in the north of the island, where nature dictates events. The cotton and banana plantations, coconut groves, spice trees and herb fields are still the mainstay of Zanzibar's foreign earnings, with cloves accounting for 60 per cent. I followed "the spice trail" and Ali, my guide, proved more than a botanist: he described uses for the spices far beyond their culinary norm.

"Those leaves," he said, pointing to the camellia-like leaves of a clove tree, from which bunches of green cloves were sprouting, "we boil them and give them to pregnant women to stop vomiting".

He popped open a whiskered annatto nut and released a shower of red pips: "African women paint their lips and fingernails with those." Then he broke off a brittle stick, oozing black resin. "Liquorice," he said, "Taste."

My favourite anecdote concerned the nutmeg. Muslim ladies use it to remove their shyness," Ali explained.

"They dry it and grind it and put the powder in tea or coffee, two or three hours before going to bed. It makes them feel sexy. But it has the opposite effect on the husband. So who gets it in their drink depends on how the woman feels that day." I will be watching for the slightest whiff of nutmeg in future.

PETER FAIRLEY

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 21

VOISEMENT

(b) Consideration, deliberation, reflection, thought. An aphetic form of the Old French *avusement*. "Thou arte a fole in that case: For thou spekes without voisement."

YOKOHAMA

(c) A toponym from the Japanese city, used as a specific epithet for fine cloth and also birds. "A domesticated breed of jungle-fowl known as the Japanese long-tailed fowls or as Yokohamas."

VOISELLA

(c) Tweezers. From the Latin *voisella* tweezers or forceps, from the past participle stem of *vellere* to pluck. "Voisella, or Vulsella, an Instrument to pull up Hairs with by the Root. Tweezers; Or a Chyrurgical little Tong, which are of different shape according to the Diversity of their Use."

VACCARY

(a) A place where cows are kept or pastured; a dairy-farm. From the medieval Latin *vaccaria*. From the Latin *vacca* a cow.

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DAY 4 & 5 At leisure (BL).
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DAY 7 Visit the Impressive Eight Outer Temple followed by the visit to Bangle Peak by cable car (BL).
DAY 8 Drive back to Beijing for the short flight to Xian and transfer to the tourist class Empress Hotel (BL).
DAY 9 Full day visit to the world renowned Terracotta Warriors, the nearby Hua Qing Hot Spring and Bangle Neolithic Museum. Back in the City, visit the Ming City Wall (BL).
DAY 10 Fly back to Beijing for 2 more nights (BL).
DAY 11 At leisure providing opportunities for some last minute shopping for silk, porcelain, cloisonné and lacquerware (BL).
DAY 12 Depart Beijing in the afternoon, arriving at Heathrow the same day (BL).

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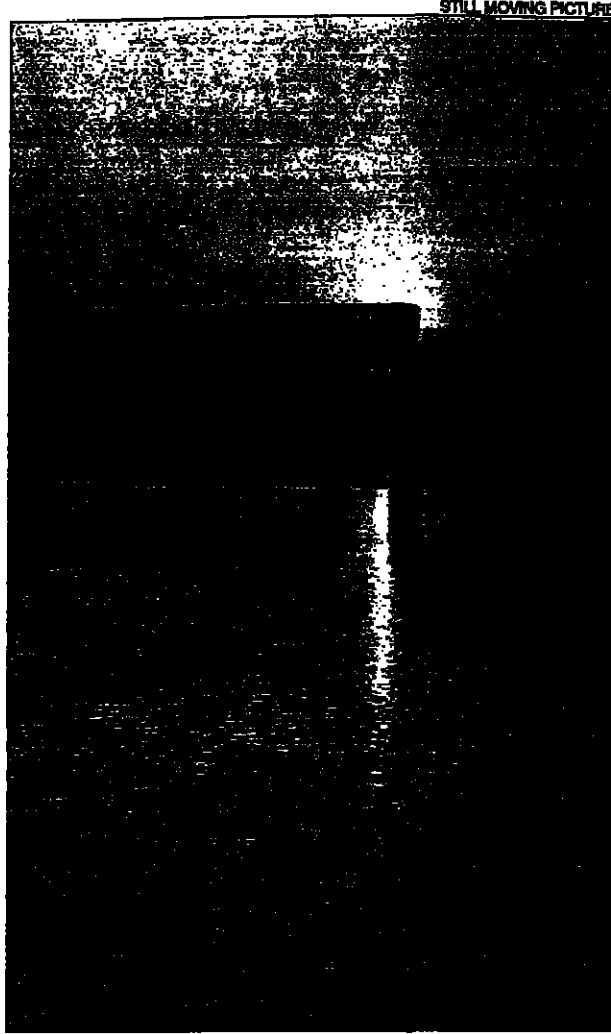
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A long way to go to run out of steam



The Tay Bridge, first of many engineering landmarks

It may not be the longest train ride in the world and it is certainly not the most glamorous, or even the quirkiest. It has never been featured in any of those celebrity compilations of the world's great train journeys and Paul Theroux has never written about it.

But for the sheer density of its points of interest, British Rail's six times a week Dundee to Penzance train, marketed as *The Cornishman*, the longest scheduled passenger journey in the country, takes some beating.

For 704 miles from the Tayside coastline of northeast Scotland to its destination within ten miles of Land's End, the train carves a cross-section through the geography and daily routine of the nation.

It starts at or before dawn at one of the most easterly extremities of the British Isles and finishes, after the end of the working day, close to England's most westerly point. It is unique in serving as a commuter service during both rush hours at opposite ends of the country.

The service, usually pulled

by a soot-encrusted InterCity 125, creeps out of Dundee station at 6.40 each morning, Sundays excepted. For most of the year it is flagged away in the cold pre-dawn Scottish dark.

During the summer, the few passengers around to witness it are treated to one of the most stunning of a series of picture postcard views as their train trundles across the Tay Bridge. In the first of its many guises during its trip, the departure starts as a morning commuter train for the Jockbrock belt of rural Fife.

The train fills with pin-striped bankers, lawyers and fund managers heading for their offices in Edinburgh's Charlotte Square. It must be one of the most civilised rush hour trains in the country. There are always plenty of spare seats and sweeping views of the coastline of eastern Scotland, culminating in the spectacular run across the Forth Bridge.

Near Edinburgh the train passes within yards of lowly Raith Rovers' minute football ground — the first, and possibly least impressive, of the



End of the line and Jonathan Prynn has had enough after 12 hours, 704 miles and 24 counties of his rail journey

string of sports stadiums that can be seen. By contrast, the next is Murrayfield, capacity 64,000, home of Scottish rugby.

At Edinburgh's Waverley station, where *The Cornishman* arrives at 08.04, the character of the train utterly changes. Out get the pin-stripes to be replaced by students, tourists and pensioners catching what is one of the first InterCity trains of the day going south from the Scottish capital.

The day I caught the train — one of only three who got on at Dundee and were still aboard at Penzance — the passengers joining at Edinburgh included a Canadian family heading for Bristol, bound for Salisbury on a whistle-stop tour of Britain. With the majority of InterCity trains heading straight to London, such cross-country oddities as *The Cornishman* are invaluable to the dedicated tourist.

From Edinburgh, the train plunges through the Border Country south to Berwick-upon-Tweed, England's most northerly town, and to my surprise, one of its most attractive. Passengers have a panoramic view of its rows of perfectly preserved Georgian town houses from the soaring viaduct across the estuary — another treat for aficionados of

DUNDEE TO PENZANCE FACT FILE

■ Fares for the trip start from £84 for a limited availability Apex return booked at least seven days in advance. Standard single fare is £104.90, first-class £151.10. A saver return is £133.60, while a Supersaver (not Fridays) is £115.10 return. CrossCountry have a "Voyager" package, including return travel, two free meals, plus unlimited free tea and coffee and a free newspaper — £116.20 standard, £174.80 first-class. NB: All return journeys from Penzance to Dundee involve a change at Edinburgh as there is no through service on the journey back.

■ Hotels and guest houses closest to Dundee station include: The Old Steeple Guest House (01382 200302, double £32 to £44), The Travel Inn (01382 203240, double £35.50) and the West End Hotel (01382 225712, double room £30 to £51).

Britain's greatest vistas. And it is still not 09.00.

It is about this time that the Penzance-bound passenger begins to appreciate why *The Cornishman* has never failed as a glamour train trip. The food is dire. Soggy, microwaved bacon rolls are all very well, but when they are the culinary highlight of a 12-hour train journey, something has to be wrong. A dining car is out of the question. The train is not used by enough of the business market to make it pay.

With luck, this will soon change for the better following last month's sale of CrossCountry, the BR subsidiary that runs *The Cornishman*, to Richard Branson's Virgin

Group. Mr Branson has promised a major overhaul of the trains and a new range of hot and cold meals based on the food served on his Virgin Atlantic airline.

At Newcastle, after ticking off yet another splendid railway bridge, *The Cornishman's* passengers are taken inland for a tour of some of the great towns and cities of the North. Durham, Darlington, York and Leeds follow in quick succession, with the character of the train again changing, now becoming a mid-morning local stopping service.

With five changes of conductor during the course of the

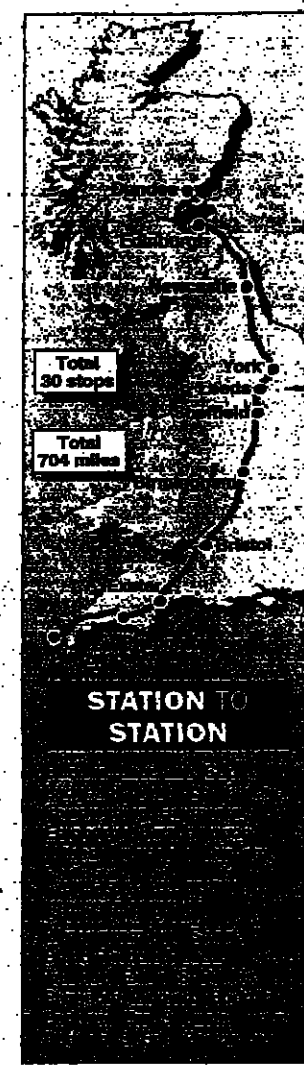
day, the train's voice changes, too. Announcements that were made in the early morning in a guttural Scottish accent, now come over in a Yorkshire dialect. By the end of the day the names of the stations will be called out in a rolling West Country burr. But that is still a long way ahead.

More sites trundle past the window — the crooked spire of Chesterfield and Derby County's Baseball Ground football stadium — before the train reaches the grimy outskirts of Birmingham.

For a trip that begins and ends by the sea and spends much of its journey bounding through the countryside, this is a shocking contrast. For perhaps only a half-hour *The Cornishman* is hemmed in by the dingy industrial landscape of the West Midlands, but it feels longer.

The next stop is nearly 90 minutes away at Bristol, allowing a leisurely lunch selected from the range of "international cuisine" offered in the buffet. On my trip the choice was microwaved packet lasagne or microwaved packet chicken korma. Roll on Virgin Rail. The only consolation is that after Birmingham the views pick up again.

Beyond Bristol, eight hours after departing Dundee, the change in atmosphere on the



train is palpable. The sea appears once again as *The Cornishman* makes its spectacular sweep along the sea-front past Dawlish and Teignmouth. On a day packed with great train vistas, this is the best of all.

It is now evening and at Taunton the train begins to fill with schoolchildren, going home. At Plymouth, where it is scheduled to arrive just before 5pm, it becomes a rush-hour commuter train for the second time in the day. But this is a different clientele from the money men of Fife.

The suits are of the grey, crumpled variety worn by middle management — the length and breadth of Britain. The office workers heading for their homes in the commuter towns and villages of eastern Cornwall are no different.

Beyond Plymouth, *The Cornishman* purrs over its finest railway structure since it left Newcastle, the Tamar Bridge. This is deepest Brunel country and the bridge is one of his masterpieces.

Into Cornwall, the last of 24 counties passed through since Dundee, the train once again becomes a local stopping service, calling at all seven stations between Plymouth and Penzance, and taking two hours to reach the end of the line. The countryside is pretty, but the novelty of sitting for hours watching the world roll by has long passed.

By this stage only the most fanatical of hardened anomalies can still be taking pleasure from the journey. The sight of St Michael's Mount with the certainty of Penzance a few miles beyond at 1855 is a huge relief.

Penzance, where we arrived 15 minutes late, is literally the end of the line. More than 300 miles from London and 700 from Dundee, the sight of the grimy train nestling up to the buffers is deeply satisfying. I have never done the Trans-Siberian Express, but I doubt whether many travellers emerging at Vladivostok after their seven-day trek have felt a greater sense of achievement.

JONATHAN PRYNN

Great city break in Dundee

DUNDEE is one of 11 less fashionable cities which have joined forces to convince visitors that they can offer just as much on a short break as London, Edinburgh or York.

Under the banner "Great British Cities", they are promoting bargain deals in a range of hotels from four-star palaces to simple guest houses, and publicising attractions open all the year.

Weekend deals range from £40 a person for two nights in the Shalmsbury Hotel, a converted jute baron's mansion, to £98 for two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast in the Angus Thistle Hotel.

Other cities in the consortium are Aberdeen, Derby, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Portsmouth and Stoke-on-Trent. Details from city tourism centres. For Dundee, 01382 434664.

Go north

GRAMPIAN Country Cottages still has a few properties available for rent over Christmas. Guests will receive a complimentary bottle of whisky and festive decorations. The cottages include Granary Wharf Villas, close to a sandy beach for that Boxing Day swim, and Dykeside Cottage, on a working farm. Prices range from £225 to £350 a week. Details, 01464 861778.

Party on

FOR the largest self-catering house party in Britain, Helpful Holidays is offering a former hotel with accommodation for up to 31 guests. Situated on the River Yealm estuary at Newton Ferris, south Devon, the property has its own private jetty plus parking for 15 cars. It costs £3,058 for 20 guests in Christmas week with the price rising for extra visitors. Details, 01647 433593.

Cruising

OAKLEY Court Hotel, Windsor plans a Boxing Day morning cruise along the Thames as part of a three-night festive break. The hotel offers all the trimmings: from midnight mass to mulled wine and mince pies in a Victorian country house atmosphere. The price for three nights' full board is £435 a person. Details, 01753 609988.

For singles

SOLO's, which specialises in holidays for single people, is offering a three-night Christmas break with dancing every evening at the Aubrey Park Hotel, Hertfordshire. Other attractions include a full Christmas lunch, a tour of Roman St Albans, a pantomime and quiz. The half board price is £309 a person. Details: 0181-951 2800.

Get active

FOR THOSE who want a really active Christmas, a walking tour and activity break, both based at Pencerrig Hotel on the Welsh border, are on offer from Acorn Activities from December 23 to 26. Both include a traditional Christmas lunch and full board with the walking holiday (£170 a person) featuring trips led by guides along the River Wye. The activity break (£250 a person) includes mountain bike riding, white-water rafting and abseiling. Details, 01432 830083.

TONY DAWE

Beatles reunited in Abbey Road

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**WORLD OFFERS
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The world's favourite airline

by Raymond Keene

THE Estonian grandmaster Paul Keres set an extraordinary record by coming second (joint second) in four world championship candidates' tournaments, those of 1953, 1956, 1959 and 1962. Additionally, at the AVRO tournament of 1938, he shared first prize with the American grandmaster Reuben Fine, ahead of no fewer than four past, present and future world champions.

He was still able to demonstrate super class, 25 years later, when he again shared the top honours with the world champion of the day, Tigran Petrosian, in a tournament composed only of the elite.

While he was active, Keres collected his best games into a series of anthologies. The first, *The Road to the Top*, containing 51 games, has now been reissued, in simplified modern algebraic notation as used in this column, edited by John Nunn (Batsford, £15.99).

This game is a superb example of Keres's tactical skills, culminating in a sacrificial breakthrough on h7, with 17 one of the main Achilles heels of the fortifications of a castled king.

White: Paul Keres
Black: Reuben Fine
Ostend 1937
Queen's Gambit Declined
1 Nf3 c5 2 d4 Nf6
3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 Nc6
5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 e4 Nc3
7 bxc3 cxd4 8 cxd4 Bb4+
9 Bc2 Bxd2+ 10 Qxd2 0-0
11 Bc4

The opening has been standard. White has a strong pawn centre, with a potential passed pawn in the d-file, good development and some makings of an attack against the black king. On the other hand though, Black has no obvious weaknesses, and has also succeeded in effecting simplification which could make it hard for White to attack.

11... Nd7 12 0-0 b6
13 Rd1 Bb7 14 Rf1 R-c8
15 Bb3 Nf6 16 Qf4 Qc7
17 Qf4

Evidently an exchange of queens would be entirely in Black's favour. After such a trade, White's attacking chances would evaporate, and Black's majority of pawns on the queen's flank would be at least as

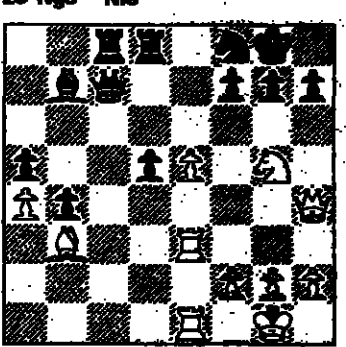
significant as White's centre pawns. Instead of this supine course, Keres transfers his queen into direct alignment with the black king.

17... Rf8 18 R-c3. In his notes, Keres prefers the immediate 18 e5, though after 18... Nd5 19 Ng5 h6 20 Ne4 Nc3 21 Nf6+ Kf8 things are not clear.

18... b5 19 Rd1 e5
20 a4 b4 21 e6

Having massed his forces, White must strike. Further delay would allow Black gradually to profit from his own powerful passed pawn on b4. With the text, White prepares to hurl all his forces at the black king.

21... e5 22 e6 Nd7
23 Ng5 Nf6



Black should have preferred 23... h6, when great complications arise after 24 e6 bxc3 25 e7+ Kd7 26 Re7+.

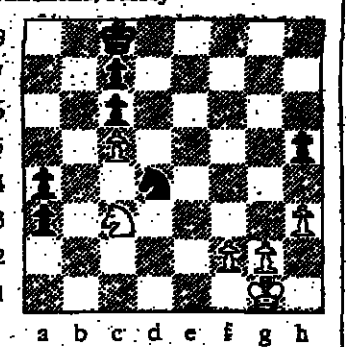
24... Nd7. A brilliant breakthrough on one of Black's most sensitive squares, even though it appears to be heavily guarded. Fine had overlooked this.

24... Nd7 25 Rf3 Qd1. An ingenious riposte, speculating on the weakness of White's back rank. The attacked knight on h7 cannot move, of course, in view of Qh8 mate. Nevertheless, Keres can now power through with a brutal frontal assault.

25 Qxd7+ Kf8 27 f3 Nf6 d4
28 Qh8+ Kc7 29 Qg7 Rf8
30 Qf6+ Kd8 31 e8

Black resigns. After the forced 31... dxe3 32 e7+ Rxf3 33 Bxf7+ Kd7 34 Qe8+ Black either loses his queen or is mated. In the midst of this, 32... Kd7 33 Qe6+ Kc7 34 Rcd1+ is also fatal for Black.

Last week's solution: 1... Rd1
Last week's winner: D. Gerst, Richmond, Surrey



No 959

- ACROSS:**
1 Alarm bell-push (5,6)
7 Take unhindered pleasure (m) (5)
8 Canal-side way (7)
10 Idler (8)
11 List of dishes, options (4)
13 Root Raleigh brought up (6)
15 Busy activity; old skirt-ex-pander (6)
17 Fish; an eccentric (rev) (4)
18 Lear's loving daughter (3)
21 Causing pain (7)
22 Entice (5)
23 Unknown-destination excursion (7,4)
- DOWN:**
1 Rich piece of prose (6,5)
2 Construction worker (5)
3 Sexually abstinent (8)
4 Pulse (6)
5 Corruption (4)
6 Most close; may also be dearest (7)
9 Teacher giving pastoral care (11)
12 The giving of expert opinions (iron) (8)
14 Display of temper (7)
16 Coat fastener; type of switch (6)
19 Place where one is forgotten (5)
20 Lodgings; disturbs groom (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 958

ACROSS: 1 Hard-core 5 Seat 8 Jetson 9 Keen 11 Chord
12 Idiotic 13 Strip 15 Wealth 16 Lydgate 19 Baker 21 Nick
22 Monotone 23 Rely 24 Reckless

DOWN: 1 Hijacks 2 Ratio 3 Child's play 4 Rooftop 6 Eeked
7 Tense 10 Tower block 14 Radical 16 Harries 17 Jerome
18 Lunar 20 Kroon

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Are you sitting comfortably enough to be safe?

Page 5



A dousing in the desert holds up Thrust

Page 12



SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

Tacky style but a groovy drive

Bridget Harrison
found Ford's Ka
full of pretentious
gimmicks — then
she sat behind the
wheel. It made
her feel like a girl
racer and left even
the Mini standing

The Ka, Ford claims, is set to be the style statement of the Nineties. It will be a car that people buy, not only out of need, but out of desire. In the Ka's tiny size and radical looks, Ford is hoping to reproduce the classic appeal of the Mini, which has maintained style, originality and popularity for almost 40 years. It has already named it "the Mini for the new millennium", but will car buyers agree?

Spending millions on advertising and marketing to target drivers with "an attitudinal mindset", Ford launched the Ka to great fanfare at Conran's Mezzo in London's Soho with a glitzy party that included *The Big Breakfast*'s Sharron Davies and "It Girl" Tamara Beckwith. With this in mind, my gut reaction towards the Ka is cynicism.

For a start, I have an instant aversion to driving a car whose sense of style has been contrived by marketing men in grey suits, let alone promoted by Ms Beckwith. Second, would any driver with an iota of originality and flair wish to be seen in a Ford? The small blue emblem has stamped too many Cortinas, Escorts and Sierras to be taken seriously as a symbol of style.

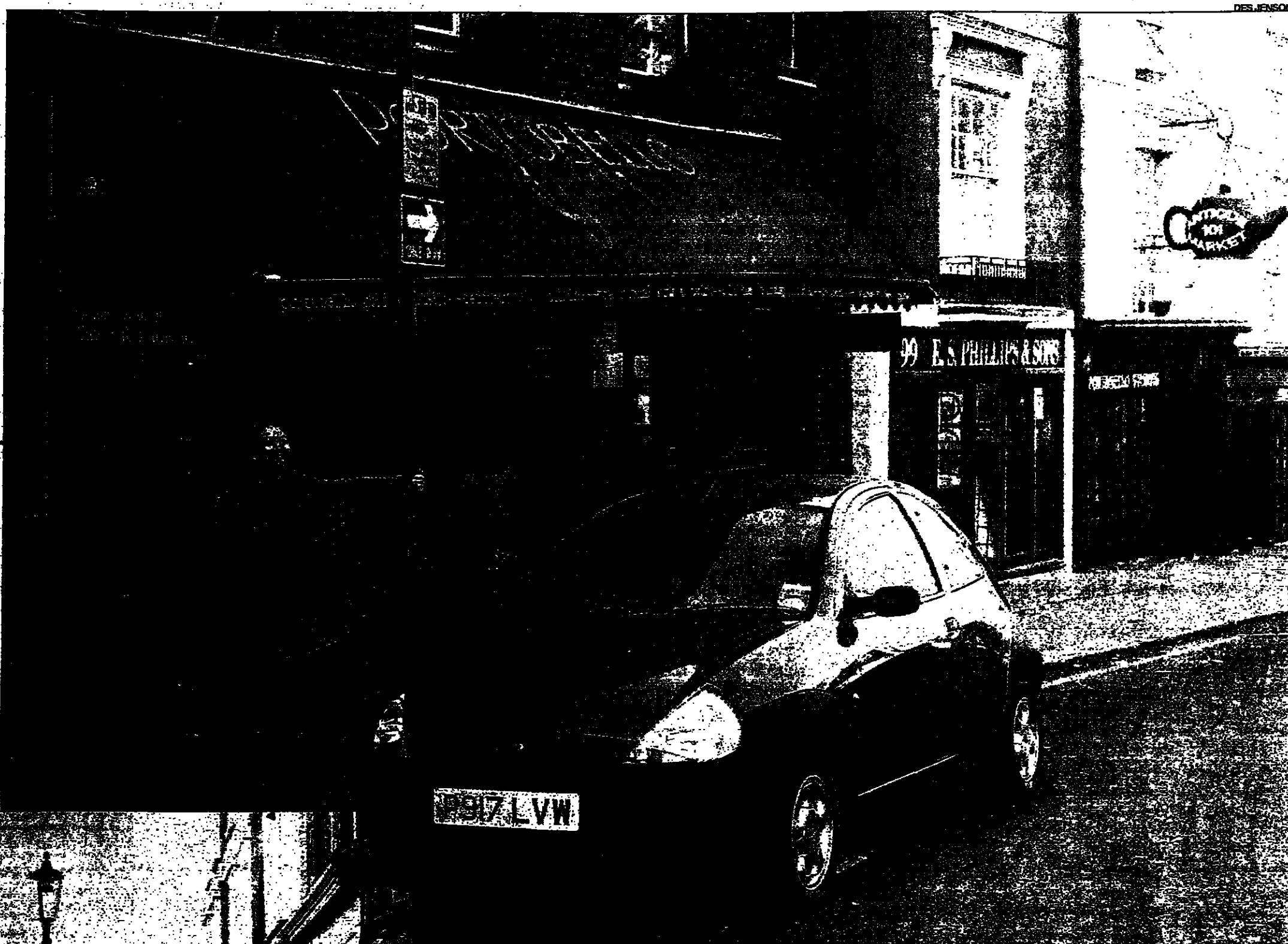
The Ka's marketing brief is screamingly apparent as soon as you set eyes on it. Its body is rounded, almost like a Beetle, with shapely curves and dinky headlights that shine like eyes. Its features have been designed to make it stand out from the crowd, and appeal especially to women. The effect is too obvious to be cool.

In contrast, the Mini started life as a doodle on the back of a cigarette packet. Invented in 1959 by Sir Alec Issigonis, who had the brainwave of fitting the engine into a 2ft area by turning it sideways, the Mini was revolutionary in automobile design. The first four-seater car with a length of just 10ft, and under £500 in price, it reflected a time of both technical and social revolution.

By the swinging Sixties everyone who was anyone owned a Mini — the Beatles, Bowie, Jagger, Twiggy, Paul Newman and Steve McQueen, even Enzo Ferrari. In the Seventies it had become such a symbol of British life that inflation was measured by its price.

Apart from a few other little gems such as the Beetle, Citroën 2CV and Renault 4, no car has come close to the character of the Mini. But in a sense, the Ka is also a reflection of its time. After years of churning out bland cars, manufacturers are trying to put character and style back into their products. A revolution of niche marketing and packaging is upon us and there is no better example than the Ka.

One glance at the Ka's interior and it is almost possible to hear the



Chic and technically radical, the Mini became synonymous with locations such as London's Portobello Road in the Swinging Sixties. The Ka may not have the same iconoclastic style when parked there, but slices its way through Nineties urban traffic

speaking obscure common sense and taste. "Ka" apparently means "life force and soul" in Egyptian. No doubt Ford thought the association a clever idea. However, the reality leaves one at a total loss when using the word. Only a catchy nickname, like the Beetle (originally called the Volkswagen, Hitler's People's Car) might save it.

My firm cynicism towards the Ka only began to melt when I hit the road. With power steering and fast acceleration under my belt, I suddenly felt as mean as any man in a Mercedes. I found myself burning round Hyde Park Corner in the rush hour as if it was a quiet country roundabout and I lane-barged as deftly as the toughest of black cabs. With "Girl in a Sports Car" blasting on the stereo, I was transformed into a slick chick on a mission and unquestionably the toughest totty on the road. The Ka may have been over-designed on the exterior, but inside I was cool.

Struggling across London in a Mini is, sadly, not a comparable experience. Laden down with two passengers, in serious traffic and grappling with a clunky clutch was enough to give me footsies for a week. Hyde Park Corner became a jungle of juggernauts and towering coaches which left me sweating,

and ingeniously turns over to reveal a storage box for CDs. Totally over the top, the feature is nothing but naff and inconvenient for anyone who likes to have a few possessions cluttering their dashboard.

Dinky designing aside, the most unforgivable mistake Ford has made is in choosing such a terrible name. Once again, the men in grey suits were allowed to let marketing

brains of Ford's designers ticking over. The dashboard resembles a space capsule, jazzed up with a pretty white speedometer, natty luminous clock and dinky eyeball air vents. Although practical and user-friendly, these added touches are unbearably contrived.

Instead of a shelf, the Ka has a grey plastic "purse" embedded into its dashboard. This pops open to make a compartment for make-up,

Small hopes for AD2000

THE race is on to find the Mini for the millennium. Carmakers are ready to roll out a line of new models — starting with the Ford Ka, launched as much for its style as its practicality. But Mercedes is preparing its new A-class car, which will be ready in two years, and then will come the new Mini, the version for the year 2000 of the car which defined the word and the class.

What it will be like, we have no idea. And will it ever be able to live up to the original Mini, which even managed to have an entire film — *The Italian Job* — devoted to it?

We have driven the revamped 1997 version, though, and compared it with the Ka and 21 other competitors in the market for minis and superminis. Turn to pages 2 and 3.



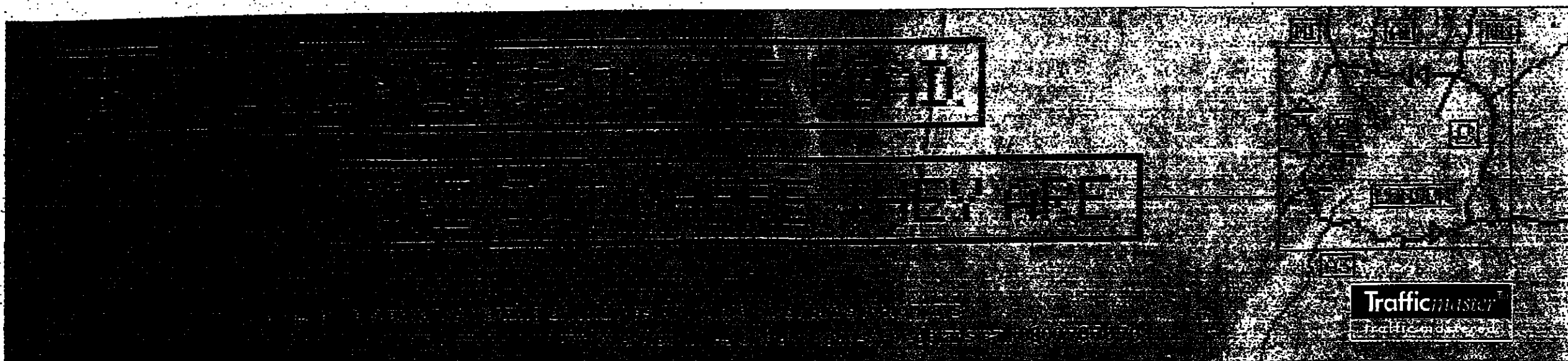
Starring the car: the Mini in *The Italian Job*

is too twee and buggy-like ever to embody a sense of style. It is nippy and fun, but nothing special behind the wheel and, more to the point, is used too frequently as a hire car on package holidays to be truly cool.

I doubt if any car, however small or cunningly designed, will ever take the place of the Mini. Despite its faults, it will always remain the original of its kind. The Ka may be just as good a reflection of its time,

but only by its radical looks rather than the technology of its design.

Nurtured with love and an icon on the road, the Mini is a style classic. However, if an object of style can be derived not only from innovation, love and a past, but also from how it makes you feel, then the Ka may find a place in history yet. Not for its gimmicks, curves or dinky touches, but simply because it is groovy to drive.



In the age of the small, environmentally friendly car, what are the pros and cons out of more than 20...

After the disappearance of Bob Monkhouse's gag book comes the loss of the script for making minis. Carmakers are rushing to market with a generation of small frugal cars designed to run around crowded towns and cities yet offer big car comfort and equipment.

There were already 22 minis, like the original Mini or Fiat Cinquecento, or superminis — as their slightly bigger sisters are known — on the market when Ford announced the launch of the Ka and accelerated the race for sales in the segment. Ford reckons the demand for small cars like the Ka will jump in the next three years to more than 1 million across Europe by the end of the century.

We only need certain minimal requirements

lots of drivers what they wanted in a new supermini and, not surprisingly, discovered potential buyers ran up a list which included almost everything but the kitchen sink. Of course they wanted air-conditioning, compact disc player and power

steering. Amazing they didn't go on to ask for a troop of dancing girls, 26-piece orchestra and candlelight dinner for four with the package.

So the Ka arrived, a two-door hatchback with a basic price of £7,350 — £8,195 if you go for Ka2 with air-conditioning, power steering and the CD player.

Meanwhile, the Mini — 38 years after launch — goes on and on. Only now it comes stacked to the window panes with luxury like a walnut dashboard and a stereo. And it costs nearly £9,000. Buy it on two-year finance and it could cost you nearer to £10,500 — the price of a decent mid-size family saloon.

What went wrong? Surely the storyline for the future of small cars, which will cover relatively few miles weekly mainly in town, should be of bare basic, but technically accomplished small cars using new and cleaner fuel sources. Surely, this is a plot which should end with a range of new cars which are not only small but cheap. Of course buyers will vote for a CD player if they are given the choice. But if their journey is only five miles long, they could manage with Classic FM for 20 minutes. When parents look for their teenager's car, they want safety first and low cost second.



CITROËN AX
Size: Minimum length 3,531mm/width 1,575mm.
Price: £6,350 to £6,700.
For: Clever and nippy.
Against: Long-in-the-tooth, unrefined.
Verdict: Almost past its sell-by-date, but cute styling and clever packaging make the AX worth a look for the money (some might even say it's more interesting than the Saxo). Be quick the place an order, though: the car is due to be phased out as Saxo takes over.



CITROËN SAXO
Size: Length 3,718mm/width 1,575mm.
Price: £7,350 to £9,380.
For: Clean new look.
Against: No character.
Verdict: Surely, looks too bland by half to be a proper Citroën. What happened to the quirks which were so endearing? Better-equipped versions verge on the pricey side. Having said that, the Saxo is a good, if undistinguished, performer and deserves consideration.



DAIHATSU CHARADE
Size: Length 3,750mm/width 1,620mm.
Price: £7,795 to £10,335.
For: Everything works.
Against: So what? styling.
Verdict: Someone, somewhere loves the Charade, but not that many people. Clever engine, but the ride is unpleasant and the cabin unwelcoming. Dealer coverage too far spread to make the Charade a really serious player in Britain. Cars also look expensive against rivals.



FIAT PUNTO
Size: Length 3,780mm/width 1,625mm.
Price: £7,482 to £10,527.
For: A Fiat that works.
Against: Dating against rivals.
Verdict: Classy ride, great engines and lots of fun. The Punto, former European Car of the Year, looks good and feels good, but serious players with an eye on their wallets might worry about resale prices, which have a tendency to free-fall, while durability is also a concern.



FORD FIESTA
Size: Length 3,628mm/width 1,634mm.
Price: £7,645 to £11,315.
For: New engines, new looks.
Against: Avoid harsh 1.3 engine.
Verdict: Incredibly-improved old stager. Roomy, driveable, cute styling and extremely highly-equipped as well as aggressively priced. Go for the brilliant high-power/high economy 1.25 engine. Remarkable revamp for an ageing package to stay top of the sales chart.



KIA PRIDE
Size: Length 3,556mm/width 1,600mm.
Price: £5,489 to £6,749.
For: Cheap.
Against: Ugly, old tech.
Verdict: Not worth the effort really. Thin dealer network flogging what is essentially a disguised old Mazda. Why pay the same for the technology of yesteryear when you can have the new stuff? Nothing special on offer here (assuming you can find one), so keep looking.



LADA SAMARA
Size: Length 4,006mm/width 1,425mm.
Price: £4,845 to £7,345.
For: Incredibly cheap.
Against: Pretty nasty.
Verdict: Only in the survey on price because it would be too big to consider otherwise. Much-improved and looks better, but still too unsophisticated to compete with the rest. Cheap sticker price, but resale prices can be embarrassing. So spend a bit more to be sure.



MAZDA 121
Size: Length 3,628mm/width 1,634mm.
Price: £8,385 to £10,805.
For: It works.
Against: It's a Fiesta.
Verdict: Why does Mazda need the 121, a rebadged Fiesta made at Dagenham in Essex? The Japs want to boost their European sales using this Dagenham clone, but for British buyers there is no point in switching. Ford's big dealer network sees to that. And for recommendation, er, see under Fiesta.



MITSUBISHI COLT
Size: Length 3,680mm/width 1,680mm.
Price: £9,919 to £12,499.
For: Reliable beyond belief.
Against: Anonymous.
Verdict: One thing you know about any Mitsubishi is that the quality and reliability are great — but that's about all you can say. Another Japanese car without face or character which will work for ever, though parts will be expensive and the Colt will never thrill.



NISSAN MICRA
Size: Length 3,695mm/width 1,585.
Price: £7,195 to £10,595.
For: Made in Britain.
Against: Looks like a pedal car.
Verdict: Whether you like the styling or not is irrelevant if you want reliable, cheap city transport. Micra was Japan's first — and deserved — European Car of the Year. Great packaging, ride with legendary build quality — and it's made in Sunderland. Nothing more need be said.



PEUGEOT 106
Size: Length 3,556mm/width 1,585mm.
Price: £7,855 to £11,905.
For: Best handling supermini.
Against: Too pricey.
Verdict: Peugeot is very good at small cars, and it would be difficult to find a better drive in this category. Looks great, while the "hot" versions are a joy. The French company demands a premium price for excellence and equipment, but sometimes you need to spend more for the best.



RENAULT CLIO
Size: Length 3,708mm/width 1,626mm.
Price: £7,490 to £14,750.
For: Nicole likes it.
Against: So does Papa.
Verdict: Long-time favourite, and quite right too. Great drive, lots of room and distinctive styling make the Clio stand out from the rest. Managed to stay fresh against competition and still appeals across a wide age range. RSi version a stunner.



ROVER 100
Size: Length 3,048mm/width 1,397mm.
Price: £7,126 to £12,588.
For: Great engines.
Against: Older than Status Quo.
Verdict: Attempts to freshen a 16-year-old package tricky, but Rover has almost pulled it off. Only 18 months or so before Rover runs the car out of production, so a good buy with excellent K-series engines. Definitely worth a second look, especially if Rover deals offer discounts.



SEAT IBIZA
Size: Length 3,683mm/width 1,600mm.
Price: £7,485 to £13,150.
For: It's a Volkswagen.
Against: It's a what?
Verdict: Difficult to make a car which sounds like a chair interesting, but Seat has a go. Ibiza built on VW floorpan with VW experience, although Seat deliberately makes it cars sportier even if pretty expensive. Does have intriguing 1.8 16-valve GT in the line-up too.



SKODA FELICIA
Size: Length 3,855mm/width 1,635mm.
Price: £6,175 to £9,499.
For: VW quality control.
Against: Indifferent styling.
Verdict: Your kids won't like this choice, but don't be put off by the badge because VW has resurrected Skoda. Canny pricing, even though the Felicia is bigger than most of the cars in the top 20, makes the Skoda an interesting and worthy contender in this segment.



SUBARU JUSTY
Size: Length 3,745mm/width 1,590mm.
Price: £9,433 to £9,834.
For: Four-wheel-drive.
Against: Why?
Verdict: Subaru has kept faith with pioneering four-wheel-drive whether the customer wants it or not. The Justy has got it and it works very nicely, thank you. But that makes the Justy pretty expensive and it's not particularly demure or lovely. So leave 4x4s to Land Rover.



SUZUKI SWIFT
Size: Length 3,709mm/width 1,575mm.
Price: £6,720 to £10,175.
For: Performance.
Against: Noisy, basic.
Verdict: Outsider in this survey, but one which performs well. Suzuki not hugely well-known for its cars, but the Swift will get you around town happily enough, though it might seem a little crude and unwelcoming against the best that is on offer from the Europeans.



TOYOTA STARLET
Size: Length 3,708mm/width 1,575mm.
Price: £8,369 to £11,469.
For: It's a Toyota.
Against: Who cares?
Verdict: Ugh! That name. Would you buy a starlet? Unimaginative name, styling and character — although they have put a lot of effort into the pricing. At least you know your Starlet, if not a machine made in heaven, will beat most earthlings for quality and reliability.



VAUXHALL CORSA
Size: Length 3,730mm/width 1,608mm.
Price: £7,850 to £12,275.
For: Good looking.
Against: Poor ride.
Verdict: Corsa was launched in adverts with a bevy of supermodels, yet still failed to capture public imagination. Wide range, although the drive is a little rough and ready and interiors unsophisticated. Not a good position to be in with the launch of the Ford Ka now under way. A rethink is due.



VOLKSWAGEN POLO
Size: Length 3,715mm/width 1,655mm.
Price: £7,845 to £10,855.
For: Build quality, shape.
Against: Interiors.
Verdict: Probably the best all-rounder in the category. Roomy, excellent build quality, handsome styling and enjoyable to drive. You pay slightly more for a Polo, but there are no holes: you are paying to own effectively the benchmark supermini.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

CAR 96

3

... and who are the winners in this ferociously competitive sector? Alan Copps and Kevin Eason report



Out in front from left, the Fiat 500 Cinquecento, the legendary Mini designed by Alec Issigonis and Ford's Ka, three examples of how small can be beautiful, practical, economical and ideal for driving in the streets of crowded cities

KA

If you want to turn heads then the Ka is the thing to drive. Alan Copps writes. On my son's tenth birthday we headed for London's Trocadero in this state-of-the-art mini. Stuck fast in the Shaftesbury Avenue traffic something happened that occurs very rarely, even in the most exotic car.

Not once, but twice, people simply stepped off the pavement and rapped at the window to ask about the Ka. Park this curvy little number anywhere and you are likely to return to a knot of people discussing its shape.

If Ford set out to design a vehicle that would attract attention, it has succeeded beyond all expectations. But how does it drive?

You can't expect too many fireworks from the engine: Ford has equipped the Ka with the improved 1.3-litre Endura version of the unit that has powered the Fiesta for years, rather than the much more modern, economical and perkier 1.25-litre Zetec which has made recent Fiestas a pleasure to drive. It seems odd to put such a venerable design in a car that is being pushed so hard as a trendsetter, but Ford says it keeps costs down and that's vital because in this class of car cost is crucial and the Ka faces ferocious competition. The 1.3-litre engine also offers utter predictability and puts long-term reliability beyond doubt. Cheap servicing and Ford's vast dealer network will also play a large part in the equation for anyone looking for a car of this size.

Where Ka scores most heavily is in its excellent handling and roadholding, especially when allied to the power-assisted steering, standard on the up-market Ka 2 and a £395 option on the base model. In town the tightest parking space is yours, while on a country road the response is better than many a larger car. It is this all-round ability that takes the Ka from being merely cute to appealingly practical.

Vote for any one of three leaders

The newest, the classic original and an Italian job lead the field

MINI

Two lanes of traffic in solid, single file as far as the eye could see. Nowhere to go and nowhere to turn to — except in a Mini. The opposite single-carriageway was clear, so I simply spun the Mini into a quick turn and headed back the way I had come to turn off and into clear road, Kevin Eason writes.

The Mini is not just the retro-looking fashion accessory everybody seems to think it is these days. It is simply the best city car ever invented.

Even 38 years after Sir Alec Issigonis found a way to put four people into a box 10-feet long, nobody has managed the packaging better. You couldn't have spun the Ka in that narrow carriageway, or even the Cinquecento, come to that. Nor would either of them zip along so quickly, so niftily negotiating bends and turns, diving through tiny gaps that would normally have had me checking the wing mirrors to see if they were still there.

Rover has updated the Mini so it can pass the latest emission

and crash tests. More powerful 1.275cc engine, tougher Koni shock absorbers and low-profile tyres on 13-inch wheels make the Mini as exciting as it gets to drive. Issigonis, with suspension guru Alex Moulton, solved the problem of a harsh ride on such a small wheelbase early on and there is no unpleasant jolting as in other small cars.

Instead, the Mini is wonderful, as near to driving a go-kart with bodywork as you can get. The sit-up-and-beg driving position is still there and slooters will find the cramped distance between seat and pedals insufferable.

For the rest of us though, the Mini is laugh-a-minute driving, a dream in the city where you can park on a sixpence — 2+p for our younger readers — and drill your way through even the heaviest traffic. Even on motorways, it will hold its own against the super-cruisers. But it is also noisy, harsh and unsophisticated, in spite of Rover's efforts to kid us otherwise by fitting a walnut dashboard, leather seats and lots of dials — and putting the price up to nearly £9,000.

Nonsense. The Mini should be as Issigonis intended it: bare, stripped down, fun... and cheap. Rover can throw away all the fancy walnut and leather: give me a speedo, fuel gauge, hardbacked seats — even original spring-pull door openers — and cut the price to £4,500. Then I might order two of them.

FIAT 500

In a tiny package, the Fiat 500 offers basic transport with the typical virtues of Italian cars: a sense of style on the outside and an engine that responds willingly to make driving a pleasure. Alan Copps writes. In its Sporting version it will cruise a motorway as happily as fit into the tightest parking space in town.

I drove an SX version back-to-back with Ka to see how it fares against the latest competition. While the Cinquecento remains an engaging car to

drive — and much the most economical of its class — in terms of refinement and ride the current version is beginning to show its age. The Ka is superior in finish and comfort. But on grounds of price the endearing little Cinquecento remains the leading mini by a long way. At £6,591 on the road, the SX version is £1,239 cheaper than the cheapest Ka

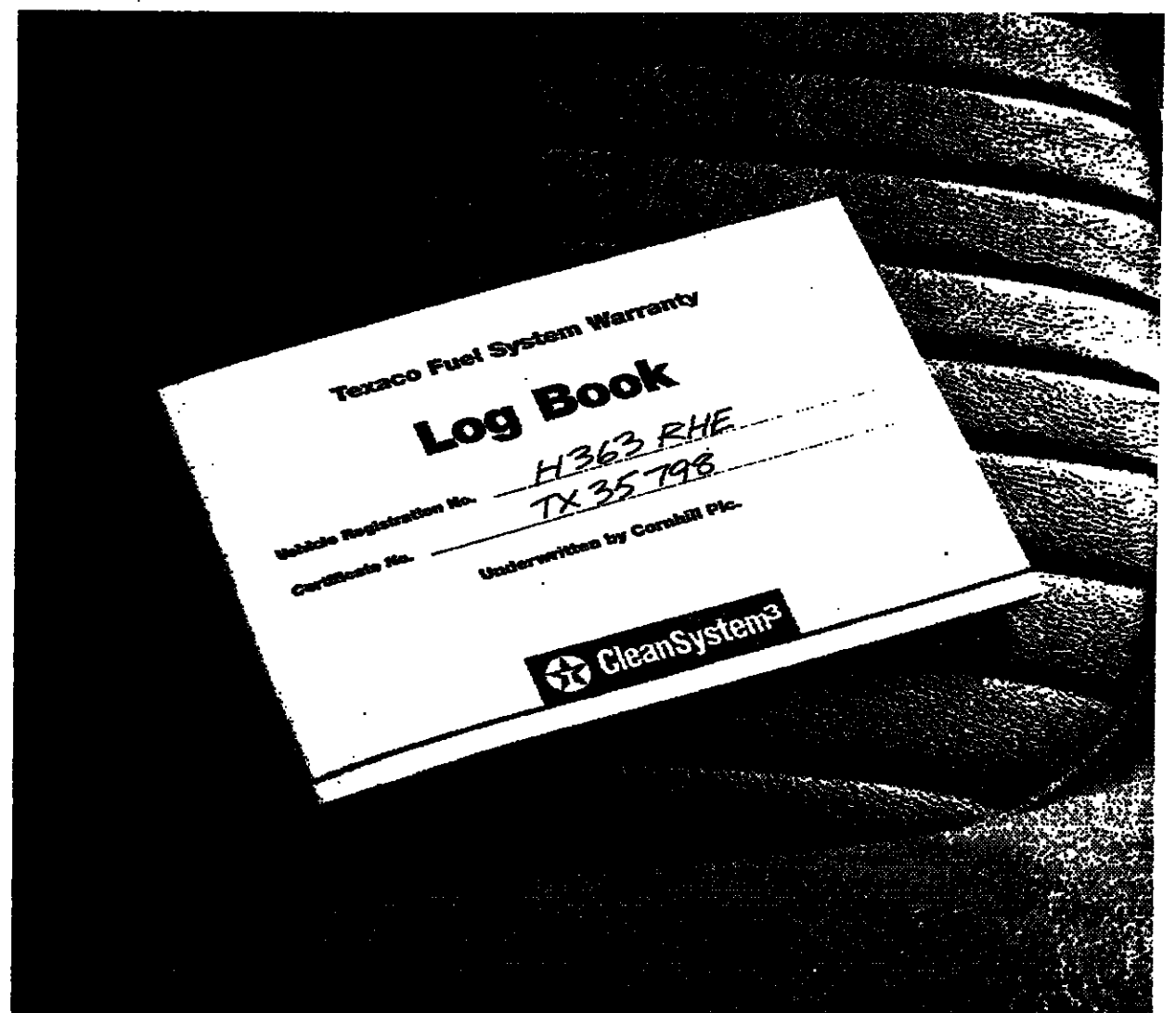
and £2,074 cheaper than Ka2, the luxury version we were given to test. Even the Cinquecento Sporting, the racy top-of-the-range version which outperforms any Ka in speed and economy, costs only £7,054 — 10 per cent less than the cheapest Ka and almost £2,000 less than the Mini which takes a fraction of a second less to reach 60mph

but which it beats for both top speed and economy.

As a city car for short journeys, I still think the Cinquecento is exceptional value. Even taking my wife and three-year-old daughter on a 100-mile househunting trip, it passed the tolerance test.

In these environmentally aware days, it might also be claimed as the most responsible

petrol car around. Fiat introduced it in Italy as the first production car offered with the option of electric power. Very few electric versions have been sold, however, because of predictable problems of range and recharging. But the very idea suggests that this car, or a direct descendant, will be around well into the next millennium.



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Texaco CleanSystem³ is the only petrol that comes with a free fuel system warranty. This guarantees that, if your fuel system goes wrong when you've been using CleanSystem³ regularly, we will pay the cost of repairs.
The AA agree that this is good

you'll agree too. Because, every time you fill up with CleanSystem³, you're helping to prevent the problems caused by the build-up of carbon deposits, and protecting your engine from mechanical damage. So, next time you fill up, make sure it's with Texaco CleanSystem³.

Log Book. Then if the effects of modern motoring do take their toll, you won't have to pay the price.

TEXACO
CleanSystem³

Size: Length 3,227mm/1,485mm
Price: Basic £6,133, SX £9,591, Sporting £7,054.
Performance: (SX) 0-60mph in 19.8 seconds, top speed 82mph, fuel consumption average 47.6mpg.
Equipment: (SX) Immobiliser, central locking, manual sunroof, electric front windows, radio cassette all standard.
For: If price is the priority then it's hard to beat.
Against: Has driver appeal, but lacks refinement.
Verdict: For cheap and cheerful motoring still leads the way, but not so

Size: Length 3,050mm/1,410mm.
Price: £8,995.
Performance: (for 1.3) 0-60mph in 12.2 seconds, top speed 90mph, fuel consumption 43mpg average.
Equipment: 12-inch sport wheels, leather steering wheel, electric sunroof £795, leather trim £500, wooden door cappings £295, sports pack £795.
For: Ultimate city car.
Against: Noisy, harsh and very, very expensive.
Verdict: The one and only. Nearly middle-aged, but refusing to show it. But cut the price to make it the

Size: Length 3,620mm/1,631mm
Price: £7,820 (£8,865 Ka 2)
Performance: (with power steering) 0-60mph in 14.3 seconds, top speed 98mph, fuel consumption 42.2mpg average.
Equipment: High-security locks and immobiliser, soft-feel steering wheel, seatbelt grabbers. Ka 2 has as standard: power steering, central locking, power windows and driver seat adjustment pack.
For: A joy to drive in or out of town.
Against: Cutesy marketing and gimmicks.
Verdict: A mini for the Nineties, but

Eve-Ann Prentice on new research into real drivers that shows safety devices can actually cause injuries

Women don't act like dummies

Videotapes of people who were unaware they were being filmed seem to prove what has long been suspected: women tend to do it close up, while large, young men prefer to do it at arm's length.

Filmed in Britain and America, the tapes provide evidence that dummies used in crash tests fail to show important differences in how sex, build and age can affect the way people are injured in road accidents.

Women and the elderly are at greater risk in a head-on smash than young and middle-aged men, partly because, being generally shorter and lighter, they sit closer to the steering wheel and dashboard. They also risk being hurt by the very safety devices that are supposed to safeguard them: head-rests, airbags and even seatbelts.

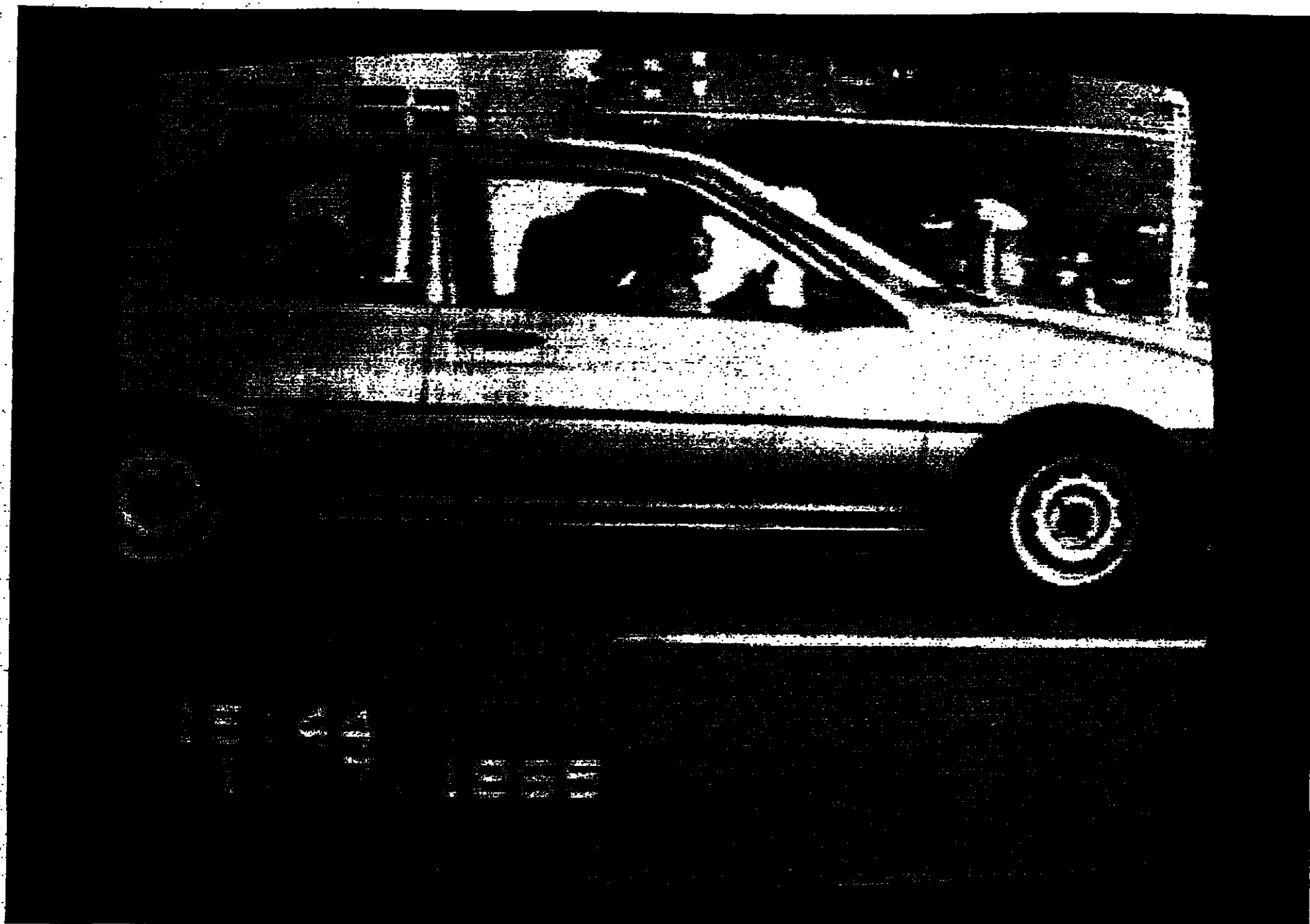
The films are part of a research programme by Murray Mackay, Professor of Transport Safety at Birmingham Accident Research Centre. He and his team say that filming drivers and front seat passengers when they were unaware they were being watched showed that "the seated position adopted by real drivers appeared to differ greatly from the standard seated position assigned to Hybrid III dummies in crash tests".

In a paper outlining his findings from a series of studies, he adds: "Since dummies do not appear to represent the real driver population in terms of head position, considerable doubt is thrown upon the practice of using conventional dummy positions in the design process."

Speaking from his offices at Birmingham University on the day it was reported that a one-year-old baby girl was decapitated by an airbag in Boise, Idaho, Dr Mackay also explained how safety equipment can do more harm than good. Airbags can injure drivers and passengers sitting too close to the dashboard and head restraints can snap people's necks and heads backwards over the top of them in rear-end smashes unless they are positioned high enough behind the head. If the drivers or passengers sit too far forward, their heads are slammed back into the restraints.

"With airbag technology, sitting closer than the design position to the steering wheel carries risk of increased injury to the brain, neck and chest, especially with the large volume North American bag," says Dr Mackay.

Even seatbelts, while acknowledged as making a huge impact in saving lives, can cause harm if not worn correctly. The elderly can suffer broken ribs and the obese



The videotapes show that women drivers tend to sit closer to the steering wheel, making them vulnerable to injuries that can be caused by airbags and head restraints

often find it all but impossible to fasten seatbelts correctly, low across the pelvis. Instead, the overweight fasten the belts across their stomachs, risking abdominal injuries in the event of an accident.

Dr Mackay's unit has discovered that women sit up to 8.5ins closer to the dashboard than men; however, tall, young men are more likely than women to be injured in side-on crashes. The revelation came after video cameras were set up at right angles to the traffic flow which, in America, recorded the drivers and passengers in 37 popular car models, and in Britain in 19 makes of vehicle.

Passengers were even more unpredictable than drivers in the way they sat, and were consequently in even greater danger of injury when fidgeting or stooping to look at bags on the floor. In Britain, where cars tend to be smaller than in America, passengers were also prone to sit close to the

dashboard because their seats were pushed forward to accommodate rear-seat passengers.

Dr Mackay believes that hi-technology "smart" safety devices which measure seat occupants and calculate the way they sit should be built into future cars.

"What is fascinating is that safety now sells cars," he says. "Things have really moved, with the industry now being positive as opposed to neutral or negative." He believes that "most cars could be made 10 to 20 per cent safer for about £50 per vehicle."

Dr Mackay explains the difference between airbags fitted in America and those in Britain. In the US, half the driving population does not wear a seatbelt, even though this is mandatory, and the bags are designed to inflate in accidents at 10mph and over.

"In Europe, the philosophy is that everyone is wearing belts, so airbags here don't inflate until impacts of 18 to 20mph," he says.

European airbags are also designed to protect the head only, so have half the volume of the American version and take longer to inflate.

Dr Mackay, whose work is funded by the Department of Transport, some car manufacturers and the makers of safety devices, started work at Birmingham in 1964. As the son of two doctors, he grew up in a medical environment. "When I first started, I used to go to the scene of crashes. At that time, the only source of information about accidents was the police and insurance companies. We developed techniques for detailed crash investigation."

Has he ever been involved in an accident himself? "I have never had a real crash, though I did spin an MG I once had," he says.



Murray Mackay: "considerable doubt" over using conventional dummy positions

WARNING

The way to take your seat in safety

YOUR stature and how you sit can affect how badly injured you might be in a crash. The main points to watch are:

- Sit well back and try not to peer over the steering wheel. Position the seat correctly to help you do this.

- At least 88 per cent of people have the head restraint positioned too low and 24 per cent sit too far forward of it. Bad positioning of the restraint can increase the risk of injury in rear impacts, when the head and neck can whip backwards over the device.

- The risk of sitting too far forward of the head restraint is greater in large cars, especially for small women.

- Wear your seatbelt correctly, fastened over the pelvis. Seatbelts can break ribs and cause abdominal injuries when worn too high over the stomach.

- If you are a front-seat passenger, try not to move your seat too far forward to make room for people in the back, and sit facing forwards. In

America, passengers were shown to be at risk by bending down to investigate shopping or other belongings on the floor. Passengers also face greater injury when sitting at an angle, which is easier to do if you are not constrained to sit straight like the driver.

- Airbags can inflate with explosive force, especially in America where they are more powerful to meet US safety standards. One driver suffered a badly injured eye when the stem of the pipe he was smoking was snapped off by an inflating airbag in a low-speed accident. The broken pipe and hot ash are believed to have caused his injury.

Vaughan Freeman discovers the rules of motoring's bottom line

Back to basics on the seating arrangements

When England and Newcastle United football star Les Ferdinand was looking for a more comfortable seat for his Aston Martin DB7 cabriolet, the advice he got from Terry Moule, his sports injury guru and back expert, was crucial in helping him decide which seat to go for.

Two decades ago when England footballer Gerry Francis found driving so uncomfortable that it was putting his soccer career at risk, it was Moule who came to the rescue by analysing his problem and finding an answer.

Now Moule, whose patient list has included everyone from Sebastian Coe to Olympic multi-gold medalist oarsman Steve Redgrave, is helping Britain's motorists sit comfortably.

Almost two-thirds of drivers covering more than 10,000 miles a year suffer clinical back pain that is either caused or aggravated by poor adjustment of the driving seat. Apart from the misery such complaints cause, a driver suffering from back pain is going to be less alert, to tire more quickly, and ultimately is less safe at the wheel.

Already Vauxhall has modified the seats in its Vectra saloon. The seats had been designed to suit German drivers whose preference for board-like padding and a back-numbing lack of cushioning did not suit the seating taste of Britons. Now, in a separate initiative, Vauxhall has asked Moule to write a booklet for every model in its range, giving owners advice on how the seat should be adjusted.

Like the softest bed, says Moule, the softest seat is not the best: "A poorly designed seat that is properly adjusted will always be better for a driver than a well designed seat that is poorly adjusted."

It is not a new problem either. "In the late 1970s the England football player Gerry Francis had a Triumph Stag. He had a recurring injury at the time which he was trying to get over and every time Gerry drove his Stag he had problems with it. I found the driving seat in his Stag was much too low and flat. Every time he was accelerating or braking, he was moving around on the seat, and there was no lumbar support."

"Because he was suffering from a prolapsed disc in his spine, all the time he was jiggling about in his seat the disc was being inflamed and it was holding up his recovery from injury. It almost finished his footballing comeback."

Moule prescribed Francis a Saab. Since then Moule, a naturopath and osteopath who specialises in sports injuries, has been involved closely

in the motoring industry and it was a niggling back injury that led him to Vauxhall.

When he met Ed Sabisky, Vauxhall's finance director, at a sporting event the conversation soon switched to cars and to Sabisky's recurring back problem. Moule diagnosed a poorly adjusted driving seat. Sabisky's recovery was so marked that he asked Moule to share his expertise with Vauxhall's customers.

Moule says: "When you buy a new car you are likely to get an owner's manual with 15 pages on how to tune the radio, but nothing on how to tune the driver's seat so it suits you best."

All too often, he says, driver's seats are so soft that while they seem comfortable at first, they cause serious back problems long-term. Even seats that have been well designed can be ruined by marketing executives who then decide lush piping and stitching should be added. These only destroy the seat's ability to support the driver properly.

Improved car seat design might even have caused as many problems as it has solved. Seats offering adjustments in height and tilt, forward and backward movement, lumbar pads, head restraint and steering wheel rake only give motorists the ability to adjust their seat in ways that are hopelessly uncomfortable and damaging.

Moule says: "In eight out of ten cases motorists will have a perfectly adequate car, but they just don't know how to sit in it." Part of the problem is that the old-fashioned attention once paid to posture, "walk tall, stand tall, sit tall", no longer applies.

"In a properly adjusted seat the driver can relax, which means it is possible to respond and to react more quickly. Tension is generated by trying to adjust the body to an uncomfortable seat, which slows down reactions and is potentially dangerous. When was the last time you saw a tense Grand Prix driver? The more tense you become, the more tired you become."

Preparing to sit comfortably

in your car starts with taking off your coat and jacket and driving in a shirt or blouse. Sit in the driving seat and move it backwards and forwards until you can press the throttle and clutch without having to use any leverage in your legs.

Then adjust the seat back and steering wheel tilt so that your arms, with the hands at roughly the height of your shoulders, are only slightly bent and hold the wheel at about the ten to two position.

Feel under your thighs and adjust the seat tilt so it supports your thighs to take strain off the muscles of the buttocks and lower back. The lumbar adjust should then be used until it can just be felt, but not so that it feels like a spare cushion stuffed down your shirt.

Finally, the head restraint should be adjusted so the top of it is level with your eyes. When driving, it is important that you sit back in your seat and do not edge forward: this puts strains and stresses through your body from neck to ankle.

Does it work? Moule advised that I sit too far forward, which brings my thighs off the front of the seat and so places strain on my lower back. This is aggravated by my having the seat-back too upright so it gives virtually no support, placing all the stress on my buttocks and lower back.

The only problem is that initially it feels very peculiar. Says Moule: "Having adjusted your seat, it probably takes about two weeks to get used to the new position because your body has to adjust."



Kindly adjust your seat: Freeman concentrates on sorting out his driving posture

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John o' Groat 1950

10

CAR 33

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

Oh, ye'll take the longest road...

Eve-Ann Prentice talks to the owners of a rare and exotic 72-year-old that will be joining other time-honoured cars at Land's End this morning for a rally across the length Britain, testing both them and their drivers to the limits

Asadistic, bisexual Indian prince is the unlikely inspiration behind the first car which will set out this morning on the Land's End to John o' Groat's rally, ingeniously called Le Jog from the locations' initials.

Peter and Sue Noble set their hearts on acquiring their 1925-registered Lanchester Tourer after becoming fixated, during a visit to India, by another Lanchester owned by the Maharajah of Alwar. Noble, whose car is the oldest entrant in the three-day AA Le Jog event, first saw the Maharajah's Lanchester in a television programme in the late 1960s.

Years later, during a trip to India, he and his wife discovered that the prince's widow and son were trying to renovate the vehicle. Fired with new enthusiasm after meeting the Maharajah's family, Noble began scouring the world and eventually tracked down the machine he owns today in America, after seeing it advertised for sale in a magazine.

The Maharajah's massive Lanchester, complete with England's Coronation Coach painted on the back and accompanied by liveried white horses, was used as a hunting vehicle by the Indian aristocrat. He used to lure tigers into view, then shoot the big cats from his car when they turned up for the trussed-up snacks, according to Noble. The Maharajah was also noted for taking swift revenge on a recalcitrant polo pony by having the animal doused in petrol and ignited.

The Nobles' Lanchester, which was made in 1924 but not registered until a year later, is enjoying a far more altruistic, though no less exciting, life than its Indian counterpart. The classic car-loving Nobles have just returned from Jordan after driving their car in the London-Jerusalem rally. And if the 1,660-mile Le Jog were not testing enough, the couple plan to enter next year's Peking-Paris marathon which covers 10,000 miles and will take two months.

The Nobles, who live in Loughborough, Essex, are confident they will reach John o' Groat's on Tuesday after spending 36 hours awake driving between Cornwall and Edinburgh, followed by a 24-hour grind through Scotland. They made it two years ago, but last year were forced to pull out after reaching the River Severn.

"Keeping awake will be the hardest part," says navigator Sue. Her husband agrees, but insists: "It is easier to keep awake in an open car when the weather is freezing. Every minute you are expecting something to go wrong. After all, the Lanchester is 72 years old and weighs three tons."

Do they argue if things go wrong? "We do fall out, but it doesn't amount to much," says Peter. "It's a lot easier for man and wife. We have known best friends argue and one gets out and storms off."

Today, there are just 12 such Lanchesters left in existence and the Nobles' is the only surviving left-hand drive. In its heyday, the future George VI had one when he was Duke of York, as did the Emperor of Japan and Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. But many were scrapped during the Second World War because the bodywork was made of valuable aluminium, bronze, solid nickel and duralumin needed for the war effort.

The Nobles' Lanchester can take 37 gallons of petrol to feed its 6.178cc straight six engine, the radiator nine gallons of coolant and there are nine gallons of engine oil, four of gearbox oil and one-and-a-half gallons of oil in the back axle. Fuel consumption is 11mpg "if driven nicely" and 6mpg "in the mountains".

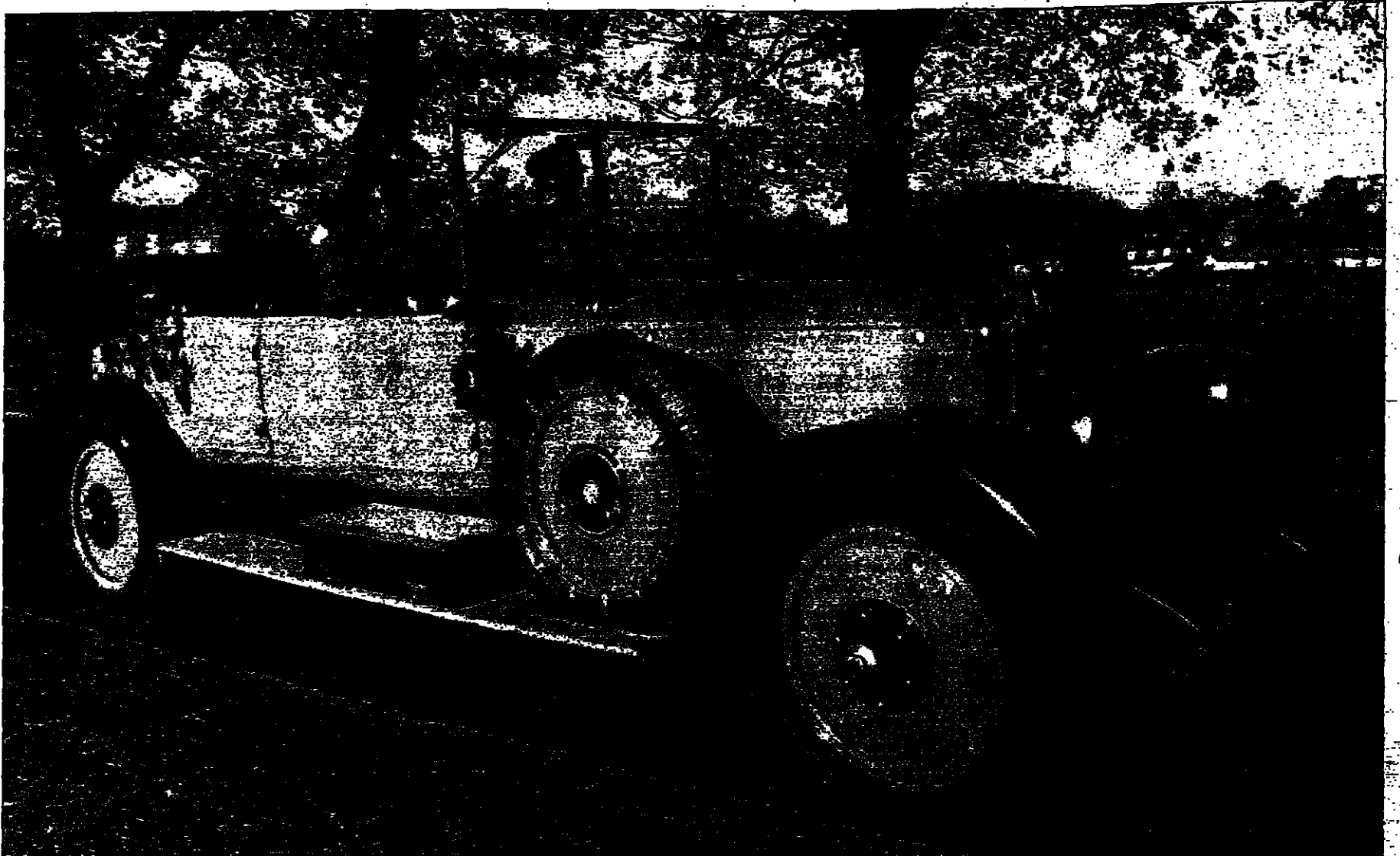
The Nobles also own a 1955 Bentley SI Continental nicknamed Hero, a veteran of longer journeys than the Lanchester has yet undertaken, including trips to Peking, Hong Kong, Tibet and Saigon. As the Nobles set off on Le Jog this morning, a father and son team will be waiting to take their turn to leave in the first rally they have ever undertaken — "rally virgins" in the jargon of Le Jog. If the course were not daunting enough, they also have to overcome a physical handicap because Philip Waterman, the son, is recovering from a broken ankle.

Driving a 1958 MGA, Philip and Ron Waterman say that entering the rally "seemed a good idea in the pub". What does Philip think will be the most difficult thing? "Staying awake, not falling out with my father and not getting lost in the middle of the night in the middle of nowhere."

To try to prepare for the rally, Philip Waterman tried to hone his navigation skills on a course at the National Motor Cycle Museum in Birmingham. "I didn't fare too well," he admits.

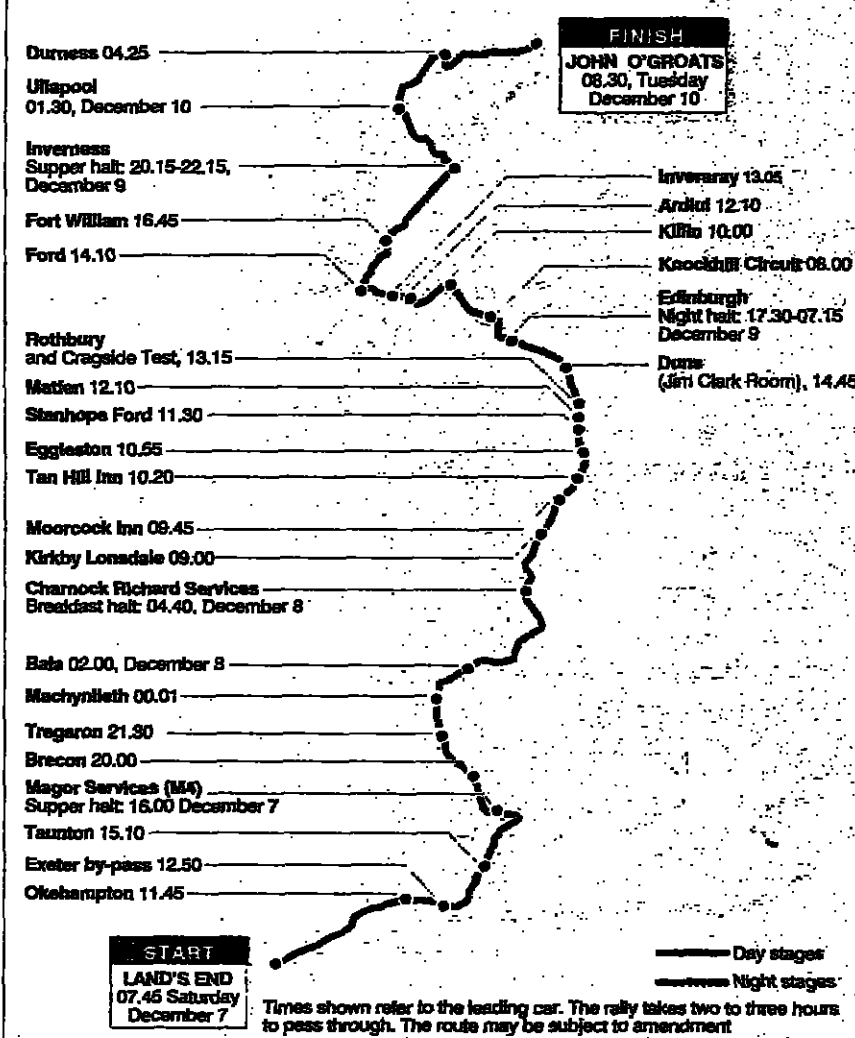
For those who do run into trouble on Le Jog, ideal help will be on hand from seasoned AA roadside rescue teams. Four AA vehicles manned by eight people will cover each of the 26 main points along the route.

"We are working out our own mini-rally," says the AA's Mike Swift. "We have a good team and all of us have had some experience. I have been on the London to Mexico car run, and some of us have been to Bosnia."



Sue and Peter Noble ready for their third Le Jog: "It's easier to keep awake in an open car when the weather is freezing. Every minute you are expecting something to go wrong."

1996 AA LE JOG RALLY ROUTE



AND BACK IN 1925...

In 1925, the year Peter Noble's Lanchester Tourer took to the road:

- A gallon of petrol cost 1s 7d (8p).
- In America, a court in Indiana ordered a motorist who killed a pedestrian to spend an hour alone with the victim's corpse.
- Walter Chrysler founded his company.
- A Rolls-Royce cost £1,891 and the Lanchester Tourer £1,800.

former RAC Rally-winner Neil Wilson in a Porsche 356C. Phil Surtees and John Bayliss will be there in their now-familiar Ford Willsiee Jeep, while the enormous Ford Thunderbird will be put through its paces by John and Birgit and de Stegge.

What the AA describes as "perhaps the bravest entry" is a minuscule three-wheeled Morgan Aero in which Ernst Krudop and Willem van der Syder will try to play Samson to the Goliaths. Among the 20 competitors from abroad will be entrants from

Austria, Germany, Holland, Norway, Switzerland and America. The next three days will not be all flood, sweat and tears, however. Running alongside the main Le Jog reliability trial will be a gentler touring trial, entered by about 20 crews.

Although entrants in this sister race do not take part in the special tests, they still face a tough test of their endurance since they must complete the course and visit all the main controls on the way. For everyone, it will be a long and winding road.

The toughest distance between two points

Pilots, veterinary surgeons and a sheet metal worker are among the 240 people who will go to extraordinary lengths — 1,659.66 miles to be precise — in the next three days to try to prove that their cars are growing old gracefully, writes Eve-Ann Prentice.

They are competitors in Le Jog, the misleadingly laconic-sounding acronym for the gruelling AA Land's End to John o' Groat's rally which tests the reliability of historic and classic cars. One hundred and twenty venerable machines will set out from a windswept Cornish cliff top this morning to travel the length and much of the breadth of England, Wales and Scotland. The trip could be completed in 368 miles, but is nearly double that in the rally because of the twisting nature of the route and the mentality of the man whose brainchild it is.

John Brown, Oxford graduate and "an anorak before there were anoraks", had long pondered the trials and tribulations possible on a Land's End-John o' Groat's run before planning and making it a reality in 1993.

This year, AA car finance is sponsoring the event. "They approached us and it is a tremendous filip," they have given a lot of help," says Brown. Sleeplessness is one of the main tests facing the entrants: Le Jog begins at 8am this morning followed by a 36-hour marathon to Edinburgh, a few hours of snatched sleep and food there, followed by a 24-hour slog to John o' Groat's. Brown is a veteran navigator who entered the 1961 RAC Rally in a Saab alongside Erik Carlsson — and won. Since he cannot enter his own brainchild rally, he competes in other historic rallies "for fun".

Le Jog, as Britain's longest rally, is loosely based on the long-distance events popular between 1920 and 1960. Cars and four-wheel-drive utility vehicles made before January 1, 1976 are eligible to enter.

Since there is no overall winner, there are class awards and medals for reaching certain levels of performance. Competitors tackle a variety of tests, including long open handling trials against the clock, observed tests of driving skills and a lap time consistency test

Le Jog is no joyride — and the red tape is longer than the rally itself

on a racing circuit. Competitors usually end up doing battle against others in their own class, of which there are a total of 20.

The aspect most newcomers dread is night navigation. Red-eyed entrants are expected to begin arriving in John o' Groat's on Tuesday morning. Thirty makes of car will take part this year, varying in age from 22 years to 71. So how did John Brown set about establishing — and running — what has become one of the main events of its kind in Britain in just three years?

"The red tape is beyond belief... it is longer than the rally," he says. "Since all events on the public highway are under Government regulation, we have to give the RAC in England and Wales, and the RSAC in Scotland, full details of the route, in some cases tracings in triplicate, from the Ordnance Survey map. We have to get permission from the police, National Park authorities and private landowners."

Astonishingly, Brown and the 600-strong army of people he needs to organise Le Jog also contact every single home not on a main road along the route to warn them. The team also helps entrants with insurance, competition licences and accreditation to motoring clubs.

Many people use Le Jog as an opportunity to raise money for charity, and for those who manage the manoeuvrability, time-keeping and other tests particularly well there are gold, silver and bronze medals to be won. This is not as easy as it sounds — only four golds have been awarded since the event was first run in 1993.

Timing is especially important. In so-called regularity sections, drivers must maintain a constant speed over certain parts of the route. For most cars, the speeds are relatively low and easy to maintain in daylight, but much trickier at night. Secret checks are carried out with no prior warning and, to qualify for a medal, entrants must avoid being more than five minutes late or early at these points.

The main prize is the AA trophy for the best team of three cars of the same make or model.

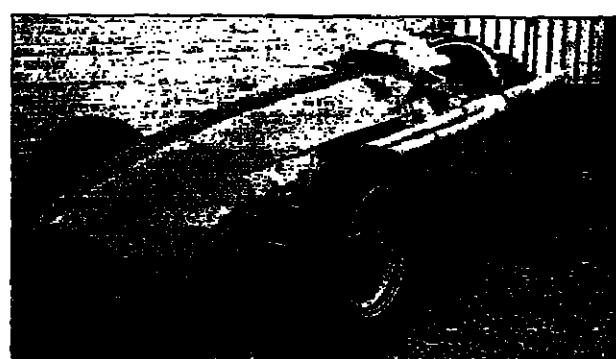
Historic prices

■ A STUNNING piece of racing history changed hands for £386,500 this week, when the Maserati 250F that won the 1959 Australian Grand Prix was auctioned.

The car in which Australian driver Stan Jones triumphed 37 years ago was one of 100 collectors' cars sold by Brooks at Olympia on Tuesday in a sale worth more than £33

million. A lengthy bidding battle was fought over a 1929 Isotta Fraschini Tipo 8A formerly owned by Led Zeppelin's late manager, Peter Grant, before it went for £106,000.

Meanwhile, a 1929 Bentley 4½-litre Le Mans Replica sold for £135,862 at another huge London auction run by Coys of Kensington.



Wizard of Oz: Stan Jones's winning Maserati 250F



A 1937 Bugatti Type 57C that made £120,000 at the Coys auction. It spent the last 10 years in a Japanese collection



■ THE NEW Mitsubishi Galant, which makes its European debut at the RAI Motor Show in Amsterdam in February, has been named Japan's car of the year. The Galant range of two-litre four-cylinder, and 2.5-litre six-cylinder, saloons and estates is due to go on sale in Britain in April, with prices starting from £17,269. Safety is high on the agenda, with driver and passenger front and side airbags standard on the 2.5-litre model, pretensioners for front seatbelts and electric anti-trap windows. The range beat 27 competitors for the Japanese car of the year award, which is decided by a panel of motoring specialists and journalists.

■ THE only Jaguar D-Type to have been raced by Jim Clark, the Border Reivers car registration TRF 9, was nearly destroyed at Goodwood but is owned and campaigned by

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

■ IN 1921 Miss Violet Cordery driving an INCH 3-LITRE, BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE GLOBE BY CAR.

■ THE 1700cc VAUXHALL LOTUS-CARLTON IS THE WORLD'S FASTEST FOUR-DOOR SALOON.

■ THE INDIANAPOLIS 500 WAS FIRST RUN IN 1911 BUT NO BRITS WON UNTIL JIM CLARK IN 1965 AND GRAMM HILL THE YEAR AFTER.

■ DISMISSED BY SOME AS A HOOPER-POWERED PLASTIC CLOC, THE FASTEST SPEED EVER RECORDED BY A SINGLE CAR IS 150 MPH.

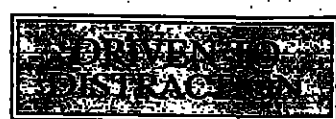
A crocodile-shaped ice scraper or a sponge that plays *Jingle Bells*? Perhaps not. But buy him something electrical and he'll be happy all Christmas

What to park under the tree

I realise that at this time of the year there are thousands of readers, especially women, who are paralysed with indecision as to what to buy male friends and family members for Christmas. Never fear, I am here. I have gone forth on your behalf and come back with the goods.

Well, all right, I haven't actually come back with any goods. But it's tough out there. Sir Ranulph Fiennes has had a lot of publicity for his Antarctic adventure, but trudging through blizzards for six months is a mere bagatelle compared with a voyage into the deeper recesses of the motoring accessories industry.

The reason I direct these remarks at women buying for men is not to be sexist. It is merely a recognition of the old saying that the only difference between boys



Peter Barnard

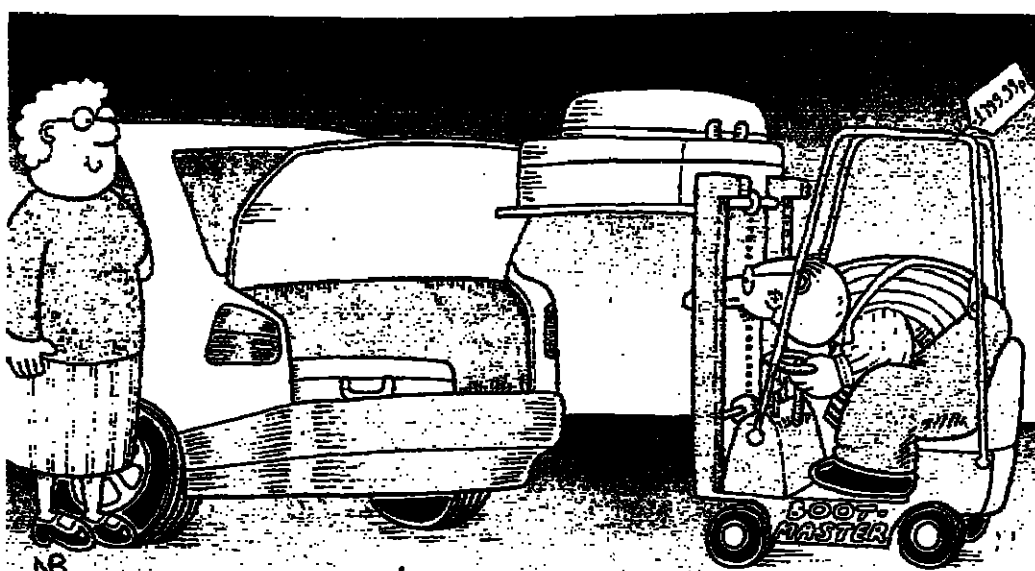
and men is that with men, the toys are more expensive. Men are gadget freaks and retailing junkies. The only truly astonishing thing about Fergie's overdraft is that it belongs to a woman.

The important thing to realise about the Christmas car accessories

market is that nothing need be rejected out of hand. You may well think that a sponge shaped like a car which, when you squeeze it, plays *Jingle Bells* is the tackiest item you could imagine, but somebody out there is buying the Halfords Musical Car Sponge (£1.99). So don't be so sniffy.

Or how about Car Shampers. £3.99 for one litre? It looks like a champagne bottle, complete with gold foil at the top and four stars on the label. Clearly the makers think the customers are morons because the label announces: "Not for consumption".

Indeed the newest trend in this barney market is towards items that look like other items. Along with shampoo containers that look like bottles, there are ice scrapers with fluffy handles that imitate a crocodile or a hippopotamus (a



mere £4.99 each). Perhaps the idea is to encourage children to scrape the windshield of a morning, a novelty I would expect to wear off by Boxing Day at the latest.

Obviously these are stocking fillers. More serious money can be expended on drivers and plenty of items are by now traditional. There are, for example, driving

gloves, at various prices up to about £20. But hang on a minute: what exactly are driving gloves?

Perhaps they have some magic quality which helps us drive better. I don't think so. Perhaps there is a law against wearing them for any other purpose. I seriously doubt it. I would not go for driving gloves. There are not many men who,

escaping from the freezing winter chill into the warmth of their cars, urgently hunt around for a pair of gloves to put on.

But we must not be defeatist. There are ways to please motoring man and they have to do with that curiously-named item, the car cigar lighter. The cigar lighter is an electrical output and the word

"electrical" has a special meaning for men. There is but a short stride of lateral thinking between "electrical" and "gadgets".

Now you are talking. Now you are a mere credit card transaction away from something to put under the tree bearing a label that will fall off and be eaten by the dog. Now you are seconds away from the eyes of the recipient lighting up as a thought and a question rush through his mind. The thought: Just what I wanted. The question: What the hell is it?

A High Power Car Vacuum (£19.99) is what it is. It plugs into the cigar lighter! No it isn't. It is a Car Polisher (£9.99). It also plugs into the cigar lighter. Or is it a Power Beam Spotlight (£9.99), which also plugs into the cigar lighter? It could even be a powered screwdriver.

Why not just buy everything that plugs into the cigar lighter and divide the goods among family and friends. They can give him one item each. He'll be out there for hours, vacuuming, polishing, unscrewing things, screwing things up, having a high old time.

And even the consequences of this mania will not be too dire, provided someone has thought to buy him a battery charger (£14.99).



Road to ruin: there were 940 accidents, including 24 deaths, on the M6 last year: the emotional damage to the lives of drivers and their families does not appear in the statistics

They are the weariest workers in Britain. When they arrive at their desks, they are too tired and stressed to function: when they get home, they argue with their families, often ending up divorced, lonely and jobless.

Drivers who have to tackle the terror of motorways on their way to work suffer the worst stress, according to safety experts.

Bereavement, moving house, unemployment and divorce used to top the list of events likely to push people to breaking point. But a survey for the British Safety Council found motorway driving to be the single biggest cause of stress. And they named the M6 as the nation's most stress-inducing road — even worse than the M25, which has the worst reputation in Europe for jams and congestion.

The 240-mile M6, which stretches from Birmingham through the Midlands and North West, carries an average 165,000 vehicles daily — although many barely see a sight of the 70mph speed limit for miles at a time because traffic moves so slowly. At worst — particularly in the Monday morning and Friday evening peak periods — they are caught up in jams up to 20 miles long, lengthening their journeys and erasing the prospect of an early start at the office or free time at home.

This motorway is bad for you

It's jam today and breakdown tomorrow. Kevin Eason looks at the road that is driving people out of their minds and their marriages

Simon Woodings at the AA says: "Everyone talks about problems on the M25 each morning, but compared with the M6 that's nothing. The M6 is the busiest motorway in Europe and is an awful test of endurance for everyone using it, especially commuters. During bank holidays it is not unusual to see 25-mile traffic jams on the busiest stretch between Stafford and Birmingham."

"Every day commuters run a gauntlet of congestion, bad driving and road rage. It is no wonder that many people rate this daily experience as the most stressful in their lives."

So stressful that Alan Norris, a consultant psychiatrist, says he has treated two people who gave up their

jobs rather than face the daily horror of the M6, while others have moved house and job to escape their journey. "The stress which builds up through daily driving on the M6 is insidious," he says. "It builds up each day without the victim even being aware of it."

Many drivers who use the motorway regularly will suffer anxiety, tension, anger and depression because of the daily frustration of being stuck in traffic," he adds. "The tension can lead to palpitations and other health problems. By the time they get to work after hours on the M6 many will already feel like a piece of chewed

string before the time even comes to face the other stresses of the day."

That is when the problems multiply. Drivers constantly late because of traffic jams they cannot control rush into work stressed before they even contemplate their professional problems. When they arrive home, it is often so late and they are in such a flirty temper that the entire family is made to suffer. The result is often divorce — which causes more stress in their lives.

"Over a period of months and years the levels of stress continue to build until the victim comes to a complete standstill," warns Dr Norris. "Often the victim cannot contemplate returning to work and needs to take a complete break."

Peter Goodwin, chairman of the Association of Stress Management, says: "After hours in a traffic jam after an awful day at work, they can come home and have a blazing row with their partner which can lead to a split."

So much time is spent commuting that some workers lose any spare time which should be spent relaxing with their families or pursuing hobbies, according to Goodwin. "You spend a certain number of hours each day working, eating and sleeping and the rest you tend to regard as your spare time which is yours to do with as you please."

Jim Brett, deputy director general of the Safety Council, warns that congestion has to be tackled otherwise stress will lead to more road rage and accidents. There were 940 accidents, including 24 deaths, on the M6 last year.

How to avoid stress while sitting immobile and helpless is not easy, but Goodwin advises drivers to forget the congestion, think of something else and listen to soothing music because, in the end, there is nothing they can do about a traffic jam. Anger won't make it go away.

"In this country we all work too hard," he says. "Wages are relatively low compared with the rest of Europe and people are tired all the time. The last thing we need in already stressful lives is a nightmare like the M6."

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
A4 Hammersmith. Roadworks between Gliddon Road and North End Road on Taggerth Road. 10am-3.30pm.
A302 Westminster. Resurfacing work on Victoria Street at junction with Great Smith Street and Broad Sanctuary.

● **SOUTH-EAST**
A4 Reading. Restrictions and lane closures between the Hogarth Roundabout and Burfield Road. Expect delays at peak periods.
A27 Brighton. Overnight maintenance on Brighton bypass between the Hangleton Junction and Ditching Road Bridge.

M25 Essex. Maintenance work between the A10 and Waltham Abbey with narrow lanes and 50mph limit.
M27 Hampshire. Roadworks with contraflow between Southampton East and Fareham.

A32 Gosport, Hampshire. Off-peak lane closures for carriageway repairs between Bridgemary and Forton.
M24 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures between Godstone and the A3.
A22 Purley, Surrey. Godstone Road reduced to one lane southbound for roadworks at junction with Court Road.

● **SOUTH-WEST**
A30 Victoria, Cornwall. Temporary lights for resurfacing work.
A35 Christchurch, Dorset. Lane closures both ways on Barrack Road for work on a new roundabout.
M5 Gloucestershire. Major roadworks with only one lane open at roundabout junction with the A419. Also roadworks for construction of a new road layout on the junction roundabout at J17 (Bristol West) and contraflow across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit.

M4 Wiltshire. Contraflow with two lanes each way and a 50mph limit for major roadworks just west of J16.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
A6 Lockington, Leicestershire. Contraflow from just north of the M1 J24 to Sawley Island (B6540) as major roadworks continue, with no right turn into Donnington Lane.
A525 Ash, Shropshire. Roadworks due to construction work.
A12 Stratford St Mary, Suffolk. Reduced to one lane both ways for major roadworks and entry slip roads are closed at Stratford Church.
A14 Newmarket bypass, Suffolk. Long term roadworks and a contraflow.
A4114 Coventry. One lane

closed 9am-4pm for footway repairs on London Road, near junction with Barr Road.
A41 Wolverhampton. Temporary lights on Bilston Road at the Canal Bridge for strengthening works between Eagle Street and Chillingham Street.

● **NORTH**
M6 Cheshire. Reduced to three narrow lanes for widening work near Thelwall Viaduct.
M6 Cumbria. Contraflow with two lanes in both directions and a 50mph limit between J37 (Kendal) and J38 (Tebay).
A59 Much Hoole, Lancashire. Resurfacing work on Liverpool Road causing major hold-ups in both directions heading to and from Preston.
A57 Sheffield city centre. Roadworks on The Parkway near the Park Square roundabout.
M1 West Yorkshire. Major long-term roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M62 and Dewsbury Road.
A629 Kighley, West Yorkshire. Major roadworks with temporary lights on Halifax Road.

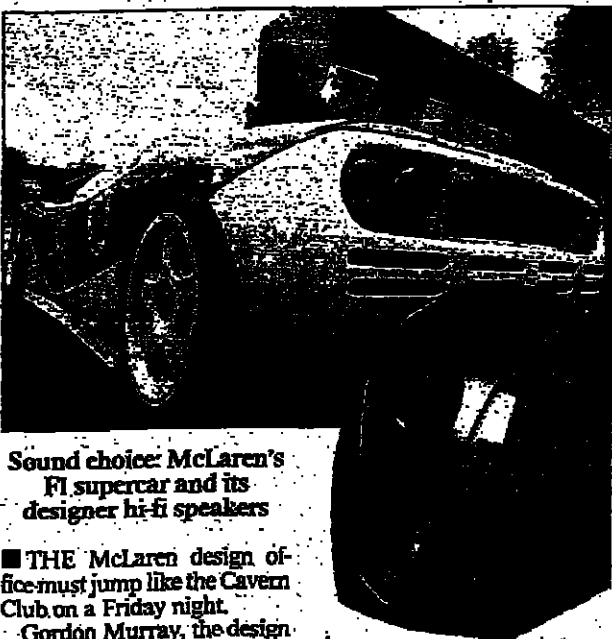
● **WALES**
A482 Aberaeron, Ceredigion. Upper Aberaeron Bridge on South Road closed for reconstruction work. Diversion via Panteg Road and the A487.
A470 north of Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil. Temporary lights on Brecon Road for major works; 40mph limit on A465 at Cefn Coed with temporary lights on Aberdare Road.
M4 Monmouthshire. Lane closures between the Major and Newport junctions as major widening work continues.
A4057 Swansea, between Ynysforgan (M4 J45) and Landore. Contraflow operating with a single lane for construction work.
A472 Pontypool, Torfaen. Contraflow between Portymore and Heron roundabout. Expect lengthy delays, especially from the A4042 direction.

● **SCOTLAND**
M8 Junction 2 Newbridge Spur (M9), Edinburgh. Major roadworks, with lane closures on the roundabout.
A8 Princes Street, Edinburgh. Closed eastbound, with diversions via South Charlotte Street, Queen Street and York Place.
A77 between Kilmarnock and Ayr, North Ayrshire. Contraflow at Bellfield interchange, near to Spittalhill.

Water wheels dry up

SO THE wonder of the car which ran on water never lived up to reality. The car was much publicised by a downmarket newspaper but its inventor, Stanley Meyer, was found guilty of fraud by an Ohio judge when his water fuel cell was tested. He was prosecuted because he tried to sell "dealerships".

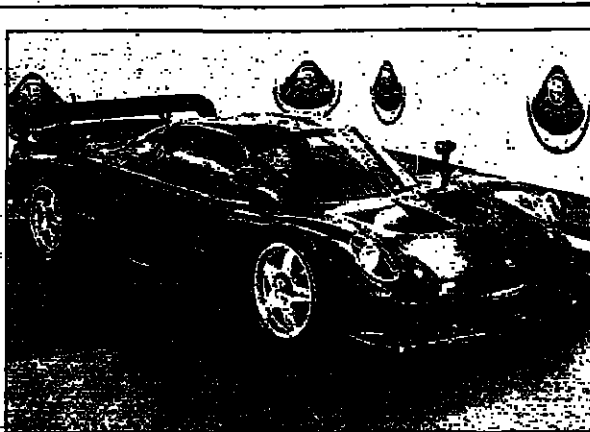
CYCLISTS are planning to give badly-behaving London motorists a ticket. They will put a plastic sticker on the windscreen for offences such as obstructing a cycle route or double parking. No problem — if motorists can stick a plastic note on the helmets of cyclists who never signal, weave in and out of traffic and ignore traffic lights.



Sound choice: McLaren's F1 supercar and its designer hi-fi speakers

THE McLaren design office must jump like the Cavem Club on a Friday night.

Gordon Murray, the design chief, has a jukebox in his office, while Peter Stevens, stylist of the McLaren F1 supercar, has taken to designing hi-fi speakers. The speakers, from Rogers, at Mitcham in Surrey, were inspired by the rear curves of the F1 and are made from the same materials: aluminium and carbon, although wood appears in the speakers but definitely not in the car. Just 27cms high, the speakers, called the d101, retail at £309 and come in a choice of nine different finishes with personalised logos.



Lotus GT1: up with the Porsches and McLarens

THIS is the car Lotus hopes will rebuild its reputation on the racetracks. After years in the wilderness, Lotus now has a secure future, thanks to more than £50 million worth of financial backing from Proton of Malaysia, and a hot new car in the shape of the gorgeous and much-praised Elise.

Now comes the GT1, the car Lotus hopes can win the Le Mans 24-hour endurance race as well as the GT Series world championships next year. It uses the same advanced aluminium chassis system as the Elise but boasts a turbo-charged 3.5-litre V8 good for 550 brake horse power. That should put Lotus up among the Porsches and McLarens which have been leading the GT series. The car takes over from the veteran Esprit and was entirely designed in house by Lotus Engineering and Lotus Racing.

Driving positions

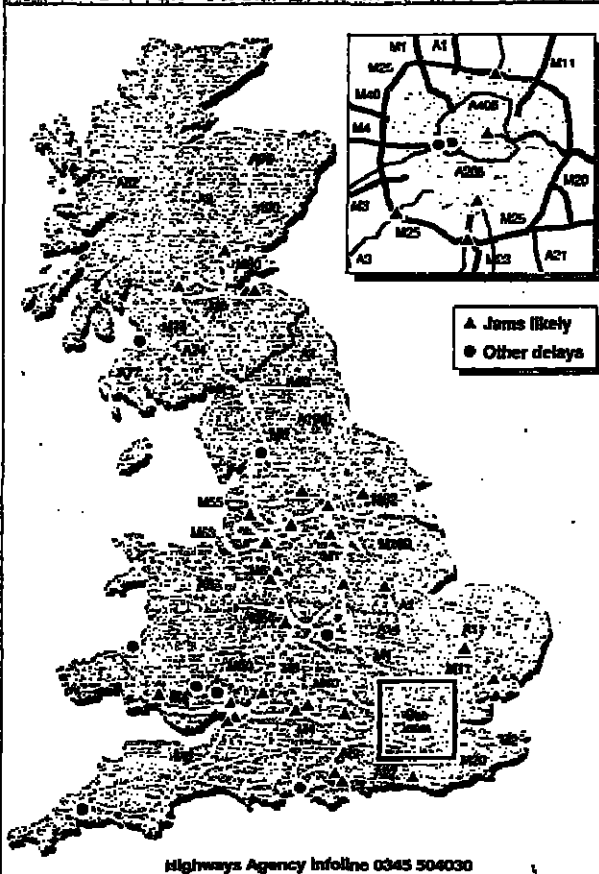
ALL change in the motor industry, with executives moving into new jobs in some of the country's most prestigious companies.

● Bob Dover, Jaguar's chief sports cars engineer and the man who launched the winning XK8, is to become the new managing director and chief executive at Aston Martin. Bob brings 30 years production experience to the Newport Pagnell company.

● Graham Morris, 46, a former Rover director, is moving from Audi, where he was a board member, to become chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

● Andrew Wainwright, formerly operations director at Lotus Cars, is to be managing director at Cosworth, while Hugh Kemp, the Lotus engineering managing director, is now engineering director at Prodrive, maker of the Subaru rally car.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



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No rain for five years — then the British arrived. Kevin Eason on a desert storm that stopped a world record bid

Washout puts the dampers on Thrust

It was so typically British: rain stopped play. The team in Jordan to break the world land speed record packed up its tents and abandoned the attempt as the heavens opened and its desert track disappeared under water.

The rain was the first in the Al Jafir desert for five years and came just as the Thrust SSC team was preparing to attack the record. Unfortunately, the desert is almost at sea level and dozens of rivers poured into it when the rains eventually came.

And they came after to a month's bad weather and poor luck. Workers, aided by members of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, spent days clearing a track across 10 miles of desert, essential because even a stone could throw Thrust's solid aluminium wheels, designed to run at 8,500 revolutions per minute, disastrously off course. They cleared ten test tracks — only to see them washed away again.

The car, powered by two Rolls-Royce engines from a Phantom fighter jet and designed to run supersonic, reached a top speed of only 331mph, 302mph short of the 1983 record set by Richard Noble, Thrust's leader, and not even better than the 350.02mph set by John Cobb in 1938.

The frustration for Andy Green, the RAF Tornado pilot who is guiding Thrust, was intense. For Noble and the

mechanics who have worked around the clock for weeks, the tension was unbearable and the decision to give up for this year heart-wrenching. "There was nothing we could do," he says. "Locals reckon it will be two to three months before the desert dries out again, so there was no point in sitting and waiting."

The plan now is to raise yet more money to ensure the £15 million attempt can go ahead, with more practice runs at Al Jafir in March followed by the attempt to break the sound barrier on land at the Black Rock desert in Nevada next year.

The attempt was dogged by bad luck and the bizarre from day one. During the final run at Al Jafir, a severe steering fault showed up at about 300mph, forcing Green to deploy his three brake parachutes to ensure he stopped safely. Repairs were going on with spare parts being airlifted into Al Jafir, but the time lag effectively scuppered the chance of another run as the weather closed in.

It was a struggle from the start. One day, the team was trying to keep dust out of delicate machinery, the next they were scurrying for shelter after tying down equipment and tents to cope with heavy rainstorms.

There was one other unexpected hazard. As Green prepared to fire the twin engines on his final outing, a camel wandered on to the track near



Tornado pilot Andy Green could not even match John Cobb's 1938 speed record before the attempt was abandoned in the sands of Al Jafir. At one point, even a camel got in the way



to the start line. Ron Ayers, Thrust's designer, asked the handler to move it but was refused without the payment of cigarettes. Ayers is a non-smoker, so the handler led his camel out in the centre of the track and tied up its legs so it couldn't move until suitable payment was forthcoming. Only intervention by local police solved the problem.

There is good news on the car though. Even the short tests at Al Jafir were enough to confirm that it is stable, will be quick — and makes "a hell of a

lot of noise", according to Noble.

"We have a long, long way to go," he says. "But we have had a look at the car and it seems to work well. We just want to try it a little further to be fully confident before we go for any record attempts. We will only do that when we are certain that the car is going well and all the conditions are right. They certainly couldn't be worse than the first storm in five years on a stretch of desert which disappeared under water."

Alan Copps on Platinum treasure

Hurry, hurry, there are only nine left

TO CAP what has been an outstanding year for Rolls-Royce and Bentley sales comes one of the most lavish special editions yet. Only ten Jack Barclay Platinum Bentley Azures will be made to mark the 70th anniversary of the world's leading distributor of the fabulous cars made in Crewe.

The first Platinum Azure has already been sold from the company's showroom in Berkeley Square, Mayfair, to a Japanese businessman who bought it from an artist's impression. At £272,000, the car is £50,000 more expensive than the standard Azure. It will be delivered to its new owner in

two weeks time after final fitting out.

It is one of five cars to be finished in platinum with dark blue leather upholstery. The other five will be finished in Le Mans green with sandstone upholstery. They are a tribute to the company's founder, Jack Barclay, one of the Bentley Boys when the marque dominated the 24-hour race in the 1920s.

"The 70th anniversary is worthy of celebration. We feel the Platinum Anniversary Bentley Azure is perfect to mark the occasion," said Graeme Hunt, director and general manager. The cars will be delivered at the rate of two a month.



The Platinum Bentley: perfect for the occasion

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